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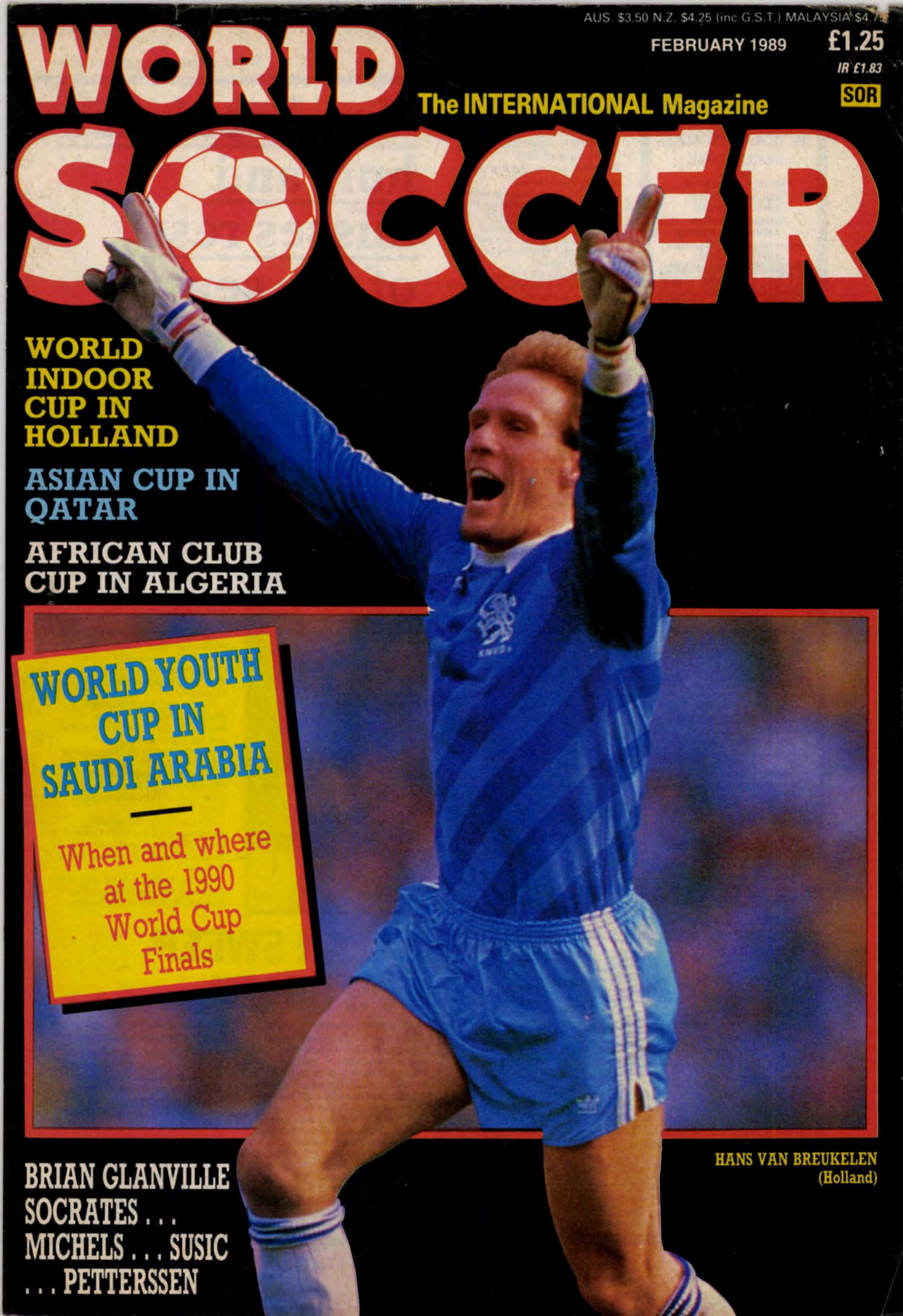

WORLD INDOOR CUP IN HOLLAND

ASIAN CUP IN QATAR

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When and where at the 1990 World Cup Finals

HANS VAN BREUKELEN (Holland)

BRIAN GLANVILLE SOCRATES . . . MICHELS . . . SUSIC . . . PETTERSSEN

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Hans Van Breukelen of PSV Eindhoven and Holland is this month's front cover man with Tottenham Hotspur's Paul Gascoigne on the back.

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COVER STORY

Van Breukelen hurt and misses rest of the season

by KEIR RADNEDGE

HANS VAN BREUKELEN, European title-winning goalkeeper of Holland and PSV Eindhoven, is out for the rest of the season.

Van Breukelen was bowled over by Stuttgart's Maurizio Gaudino at an indoor tournament in Munich.

He damaged cartilage and ligaments in his left knee so badly that at first it was feared he might never play again.

Now the one-time Nottingham Forest star is hoping he may just be ready in time for the start of next season.

PSV are left to defend their Dutch league title, take on Mechelen this month in the European Supercup then face Real Madrid next month in the Champions' Cup quarter- finals without one of their most experienced men.

Not only that, but Van Breukelen will miss Holland's all-important World Cup qualifying return against West Germany on April 26.

Indoor tournaments have gained great popularity in the last three years among Dutch, West German and Swiss clubs as a means of keeping players active during the winter break.

Now clubs such as PSV Eindhoven, Bayern Munich and the rest may re-examine the value of such events.

Van Breukelen was not the only indoor injury victim. Bayern Munich's Roland Wohlfarth may be struggling to regain fitness in time for the UEFA Cup quarter-final against Hearts after being injured 'on the boards'.

PSV are fortunate that in 21-year-old Patrick Lodewijks they boast such talented goalkeeping cover.

Indeed, Lodewijks has so much potential it was thought he might demand a move at the season's end so as not to let his talent and international potential go to waste on the substitutes' bench.

PSV coach Guus Hiddink has full confidence that Lodewijks will withstand whatever Marid's Hugo Sanchez and Emilio Butragueno can throw at him in Europe.

As league cover for Lodewijks PSV have arranged the loan of Carlo L'Ami from second division Excelsior Rotterdam.

L'Ami, 24, first broke through into first team football at the end of the end of the 1986-87 season as cover for the veteran Pim Doesburg.

He was signed too late to qualify for the European quarter-finals, however. So, as reserve in the Champions' Cup, PSV will call up their goalkeeper-trainer, Jan Formanoy.

Now 35, the one-time NEC keeper has been working in Eindhoven for almost three years and has kept match fit with occasional games for the reserves.

Last season PSV were deserved victors over Madrid in the Champions' Cup semi-final. This time around, the tie looks more finely balanced.

For one thing, the possibly decisive second leg will be played in the intimidating setting of Madrid's Estadio Bernabeu, not in Holland.

On the playing side not only will PSV miss the experience of Van Breukelen, there will be doubts

Ronald Koeman . . . joining Barcelona for £4 million

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CLEAN SWEEP FOR BRAZIL

ALL CHANGE in Brazil. There is an influential new broom in charge of the chaos-ridden confederation, a new national manager . . . and the encouragement of success at the inaugural World Indoor Cup.

New president of the CBF is Ricardo Teixeira. He secured so many votes in the run-up to elections that rivals Nabi Abi Chedid (formerly vice-president) and Octavio Pinto Guimaraes (incumbent president) quit the race in advance of the CBF council meeting.

Teixeira was thus elected unanimously. No doubt his family connections helped since Teixeira is son-in-law of FIFA president Joao Havelange, the last man able to successfully bind together the myriad disparate elements in Brazilian soccer.

Even before his formal election Teixeira had appointed 38-year-old Sebastiao Lazarone, former coach to Vasco da Gama, Fluminense and Flamengo as national manager in succession to the embattled Carlos Alberto da Silva.

Lazarone, who had been under contract to the Al Ahly club of Saudi Arabia, was Teixeira's second choice.

Top target was Carlos Alberto Parreira but there was no way the Saudi federation would consider releasing him in the wake of their national team's triumph in the Asian Cup.

HANS DOWN

about the attitudes of Ronald Koeman and Soren Lerby.

Koeman will join Barcelona at the end of the season. The clubs have agreed a £4 million transfer fee and Koeman will be paid a basic £700,000-a-year for four years.

Thus his duel with Madrid will be invaded by all sorts of extra pressures.

As for Lerby, he has hanging over him tax evasion allegations stemming from the sensational Ajax Amsterdam fraud squad inquiry.

Van Breukelen's injury could hardly have come at a worse time for Dutch national manager Thys Libregts.

Deputy

For the last few years Feyenoord's Joop Hiele has been on hand as the automatic deputy. But Hiele, too, is recovering from knee trouble.

Ironically, it was in a 2-1 defeat by Ajax at the end of November that he was injured.

Hiele is expected to be back in action by the end of March. But it is questionable whether his reflexes and competitive edge will be sharp enough to risk in World Cup action against West Germany's Voller, Klinsmann and Matthaus.

Feyenoord are taking no chances. After reserve keeper Rick De Jong put up a disastrous performance in a 6-1 thrashing by Twente Enschede, Feyenoord have taken former Poland international Henryk Bolesta (ex-Radomiak, Ruch Chorzow and Widzew Lodz) on trial.

Libregts has one match, a friendly next month against the Soviet Union in a European Final repeat, to experiment before deciding who should keep goal against West Germany.

His choice lies between Aberdeen's Theo Snelders and Ajax Amsterdam's Stanley Menzo.

Snelders, 25, has been in excellent form in Scotland since his transfer last year from Twente Enschede.

Libregts privately considers him technically just ahead of Menzo. But the Ajax man has the advantage of playing in Holland — where goalkeepers generally have greater freedom of action and a wider territory in which to operate.

Libregts may give both Snelders and Menzo half a match against the Soviets but Menzo is narrow favourite to face West Germany.

The Van Breukelen crisis pushed the Ajax investigation into the background.

Fraud squad officers have interviewed former directors and star players about the 'disappearance' of an alleged £1.7million in transfer dealings involving Lerby, fellow Danes Frank Arnesen and Henning Jensen, Austria's Felix Gasselich and Dutch internationals Simon Tahamata, Wim Kieft and Piet Hamberg.

Former president Ton Harmsen is among the accused, although whether he will be well enough to face the eventual trial is in doubt after he suffered a stroke at the height of the inquiries.

Ajax, meanwhile, have installed an entirely new board of directors — headed by Michael Van Praag, son of Joop Van Praag who was president in the great days of the early 1970s.

The irony is that Van Praag junior was hardly ever seen at Ajax matches during his father's reign.

In a Belgian fraud action 20 current and former players of Belgian club Genk face legal proceedings for tax offences arising from the great 1982-84 match-fixing scandal.

SWEDEN TOP

SWEDEN and Colombia are the top nations in Europe and South America respectively, according to World Soccer's annual percentage success charts. But it was only on goal difference that the Swedes pipped European semi-finalists Italy and West Germany.

European champions Holland were tenth — ironically a DROP of eight places — whilte England slid from seventh to 16th. But that was not the worst collapse Spain tumbled from ninth in 1987 to No 25.

Positions were calculated by awarding two points for victory, one for a draw and then computing the percentage of points obtained from points available.

Where nations were level on average precedence went to the nation having played more games, then the nation with the better goal difference, then goals scored.

1988 INTERNATIONAL REVIEW: Europe

Ps	Country (1987)	P	W	D	L	F	A	pc
1	Sweden (11)	11	6	4	1	19	8	72.72
2	Italy (3)	11	7	2	2	17	7	72.72
3	West Germany (8)	11	6	4	1	15	5	72.72
4	Yugoslavia (14)	9	5	3	1	16	9	72.22
5	Poland (13)	10	6	2	2	18	13	70.00
6	Cz'slovakia(15)	11	6	3	2	15	11	68.18
7	Rumania (4)	9	5	2	2	19	10	66.66
8	France (24)	9	4	4	1	12	9	66.66
9	Rep.Ireland (1)	10	5	3	2	13	5	65.00
10	Holland (2)	11	6	2	3	14	8	63.63
11	Soviet Union (5)	16	8	4	4	23	16	62.50
12	Bulgaria (6)	13	6	4	3	23	17	61.53
13	Belgium (22)	6	3	1	2	9	7	58.33
14	Hungary (17)	11	4	4	3	12	14	54.54
15	Greece (21)	12	5	3	4	15	16	54.16
16	England (7)	12	3	6	3	9	11	50.00
17	Malta (29)	9	3	3	3	11	13	50.00
18	Turkey (28)	5	2	1	2	9	7	50.00
19	Portugal (16)	2	1	1	0	1	0	50.00
20	Scotland (19)	8	1	5	2	6	8	43.75
21	Wales (18)	6	2	1	3	8	11	41.66
22	Finland (30)	11	2	5	4	9	13	40.90
23	Austria (25)	10	3	2	5	14	17	40.00
24	Switzerland (10)	9	3	1	5	11	11	38.88
25	Spain (9)	13	3	4	6	15	16	38.46
26	Denmark (23)	12	3	3	6	12	16	37.50
27	N.Ireland (26)	7	1	3	3	6	9	35.71
28	East Germany(12)	10	2	3	5	11	16	35.00
29	Norway (27)	8	1	3	4	9	10	31.25
30	Cyprus (31)	5	0	2	3	2	10	20.00
31	Iceland (20)	7	0	2	5	4	14	14.28
32	Albania (33)	4	0	1	3	1	6	12.50
33	Luxembourg (32)	4	0	0	4	1	10	00.00
34	Liechtenstein	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	San Marino	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1988 INTERNATIONAL REVIEW: South America

Ps	Country (1987)	P	W	D	L	F	A	pc
1	Colombia (4)	6	4	2	0	11	3	83.33
2	Brazil (2)	8	5	3	0	13	4	81.25
3	Paraguay (5)	4	3	0	1	10	4	75.00
4	Uruguay (1)	8	4	1	3	13	9	56.25
5	Chile (3)	9	2	3	4	9	11	38.88
6	Argentina (7)	7	1	3	3	8	12	35.71
7	Ecuador (8)	6	0	3	3	4	11	25.00
8	Peru (6)	2	0	1	1	1	4	25.00
9	Bolivia (9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Venezuela (10)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

IS ENGLAND TRIP WISE?

ENGLAND'S wisdom in going Greek for a 'friendly' international on February 8 is open to question after an escalation in hooliganism in and around Athens.

In September fans of Panathinaikos were jailed for up to 28 months for running riot after a defeat by Olympiakos Volos.

Jailed

In October 12 policemen were hurt as fans fought at a league match between crisis-hit giants Olympiakos and PAOK of Salonika.

In October again, 23 fans were hurt, 16 were arrested and ring-leaders jailed for between 124 and 27 months after crowd trouble at the UEFA Cup tie in Salonika between PAOK and Napoli of Italy.

In December there were two serious outbreaks on the same day at cup-ties between Olympiakos and OFI in the Olympic stadium, and between AEK and Levadiakos; in the Olympic stadium incident an office was set on fire and 8,000 seats were ripped out, causing £60,000 damage.

Greek football has always been a volatile environment. Greece, for example, was the first nation to introduce three points for a win.

That was back in the 1950s when two points were awarded for a draw and one point for a losing team which completed the 90 minutes and did not walk off in anger before the final whistle.

The general pattern in the past was for trouble to be confined to the bitter rivalries between top domestic clubs such as Olympiakos, Panathinaikos, AEK and PAOK of Salonika.

However the incidents at the PAOK v Napoli UEFA Cup tie suggest England's visit could be more of a problem than had been expected.

Hopefully, at this most delicate moment when English soccer appears to be about to provide the thin end of a national identity card wedge, the FA's security men have already sorted out tactics with their Greek counterparts.

While England are in Greece, Northern Ireland will entertain Spain in a World Cup tie which provides Billy Bingham's men with just about their last chance of rescuing their chances of a third successive appearance at the finals.

Match

Keeping an eye on events in Belfast will be Irish Republic manager Jack Charlton, whose men play France the previous day in Dublin in what will be Michel Platini's second match in charge since his sensational appointment last October.

Platini's third match as boss will also be this month — in London. France have set up a friendly against Arsenal at Highbury on February 14.

MILLO SET NE

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERIC

MILLONARIOS of Bogota won the Colombian professional league title for a record thirteenth time but only on better goal difference over Nacional of Medellin as both finished with the same number of points in the eight team final round.

The two clubs had identical 10-3-1 records and also had 1½ bonus points each accredited from previous rounds.

But protests came from all sides that Millonarios had been helped by referees to retain the title.

This was especially apparent in the final week when America had what seemed a perfectly good winner disallowed in their 2-2 draw with Millonarios while, a few days later, Millonarios beat Independiente Santa Fe 2-1 with a last-minute penalty, when everybody agreed that the foul was committed at least two metres outside the penalty area.

There had been accusations of referees accepting bribes all season and the government had threatened to stop the final series of games while investigating the affair.

Fiddling

In the end both Millonarios and Nacional were accused by the government of fiddling foreign exchange on transfer deals and in bringing foreign teams to play in Colombia.

Both clubs qualified for their first round group. Millonarios will be taking part for the twelfth time — they also did so last year — and Nacional for the sixth time, and first since 1982.

As the season closed, the Colombian government also insisted on structural changes for the next tournament and a spokesman said that stadia, nearly all government-owned, will only be lent to clubs which comply.

No clear details of the required changes have been given so far, but it is a well-known fact that the government is worried that nearly every club is being run with the aid of drug profits.

The designation of referees for each match was, however, taken out of the hands of club officials who had done this in the past.

Record

Problems apart, Millonarios and Nacional deservedly finished with top honours.

Nacional won the first of the season's two championships and Millonarios the second.

Then both teams set a record points total of 24½ — previously held by America with 23 — for the final round.

Earlier in the season, Millonarios put up a new unbeaten record for Colombian football with 26 games.

Sergio Angula of Independiente Santa Fe finished as top individual scorer with 26 goals, followed by Colombian compatriots Estrada (Millonarios) with 26 and Trellez (Nacional) with 20.

The leading foreign scorer this time was Argentine Ricardo Gareca (America) with 16.

BRAZIL: Flamengo — after a sensational comeback which took them from bottom to second in their group with five wins from their last six games — Cruzeiro, Bahia and Sport took the top two places in the second round of the two groups in the Brazilian national championship.

They now join Vasco da Gama, Fluminense, Internacional Porto Alegre and Gremio — who had qualified in the same way in the first round — in the quarter-finals.

Fluminense, obviously not trying, finished bottom of their group in the second stage.

Meanwhile, players were frustrated in their fight to get their annual one-month holiday from December 12 to January 12 and thus force the regular season of the championship to continue into 1989.

A regional tribunal upheld their right but a national tribunal overturned the decision, while the FA said that even if the players, led by veteran Zico, went on holiday, clubs would have to continue lining up teams or lose points.

CHILE: Santiago clubs Colo Colo, Universidad Catolica and Universidad de Chile decided not to continue playing in the current first division championship as a protest against the Chilean FA and its president, Miguel Nasur, whom they accuse of carrying on a vendetta against their club officials and whose authority they refuse to recognize.

The three were followed by Union Espanola and Palestino and none of them turned up for the last series of games.

The FA originally said that clubs not turning up would lose points — in this case four of the five clubs were due to play each other — but are now studying the matter to avoid a crisis.

After 26 games, with only four to go, Cobreloa top the table by two points from Cobresal with another provincial team, Deportes Iquique, a further point back.

EQUADOR: Emelec, of Guayaquil, won the 1988 Ecuadorian first division — taking the title for the sixth time — by beating Deportivo Quito in the two-legged final.

The two clubs had won their respective quarter-final groups and then Emelec easily won the home leg of the Final 3-0 before drawing 1-1 in Quito.

These two teams played a total of 42 games divided into three rounds.

The first round consisted of 34 games, 18 teams playing home and away; the second round was played between the top eight clubs, divided into two groups of four.

The top two teams from each group then played off for the league championship.

In the first leg, played in the Barcelona Stadium, Emelec beat Deportivo Quito by 3-0, Beninca, Verduga and Cardenas scoring Emelec's goals in front of 28,000 fans.

In Quito, the second leg was full of incident. Before the game, a tear gas bomb was thrown into Emelec's dressing room and in the closing stages, a bottle was thrown into the crowd by a supporter who had broken through the fencing, resulting in a four-year-old boy losing his sight in one eye.

Minda opened the scoring in the 46th minute for Emelec. But in the second-half, Pavon equalised with eight minutes to go.

Emelec had two coaches during the season — both Uruguayans. Julio Castelnoble started the season but left due to disagreements with club officials; Juan Ramon Silva finished the job.

Emelec, playing attacking soccer home and away, had their outstanding players in Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Beninca and home-born striker Raul Aviles.

COLOMBIAN TITLE WINNERS (since 1948)

13 — Millonarios (Bogota); 6 — Independiente Santa Fe (Bogota), America (Cali); 5 — Deportivo Cali; 4 — Atletico Nacional (Medellin); 2 — Independiente Medellin, Atletico Junior (Barranquilla); 1 — Deportes Caldas, Atletico Quindio, Union Magdalena (Santa Marta).

ARGENTINA: As the Argentine National A Division went into a five week summer recess, the final day's top match between leaders Racing Club Avellaneda and second-placed Boca Juniors was suspended at half-time with no score after two of the latter's players were knocked out by missiles as they were returning to the field.

Goalkeeper Navarro Montoya was knocked out as a smoke bomb exploded close to him while midfielder Simon was felled by a stone as he went to his assistance.

The match was vital as the teams in the top two places at the half-way stage — this was it — would qualify for the 1989 Libertadores Cup.

Racing were already in while Boca Juniors needed a win to make sure . . . which is what they would now need, at least a two- point win on a penalty shoot-out.

A few weeks earlier similar incidents caused the suspension of the Newell's Old Boys versus Rosario Central match, with no score, and the FA took the points off both teams.

Ruben Paz, the Uruguayan international midfielder consistently starring for Argentine national championship leaders Racing Club Avellaneda , was voted America's player of the year in the annual poll conducted, since 1971, by the "El Mundo" newspaper of Caracas (Venezuela).

The top ten places were: 1. Ruben Paz (Uruguay), Racing Avellaneda, Argentina, 54 points; 2. Hugo de Leon (Uruguay), Nacional Montevideo, Uruguay, 39; 3. Geovani Silva (Brazil), Vasco da Gama, Brazil and Claudio Taffarell (Brazil), Internacional Porto Alegre, Brazil, 33; 5. Nestor Fabbri (Argentina), Racing Avellaneda, Argentina, 19; 6. Bernardo Redin (Colombia), Deportivo Cali, Colombia, 14; 7. Sergio Baptista (Argentina), River Plate, Argentina, 13; 8. Julio Cesar Uribe (Peru), Sporting Cristal, Peru, 11; 9. Jorge da Silva (Uruguay), River Plate, Argentina, 9; 10. Yubert Lemos (Uruguay), Nacional Montevideo, Uruguay and Paulo Evair (Brazil), Guarani Campinas, Brazil, 7.

PARAGUAY: Olympia won the first division title by comfortably winning the eight-team final round with second-placed Sol de America joining them in the 1989 Libertadores Cup.

Defending champions, Cerro Porteno, a distant third, failed to turn up in one of the final matches, protesting against the league's bad management.

If they had withdrawn from the rest of the championship, they would have been automatically relegated to the second division.

BOLIVIA: Seven teams are engaged in a two-group final round with the two top teams then due to clash for the title.

Blooming top group one after two games ahead of Oriente Petrolero, Destroyers and Wilsterman while the Strongest lead group two ahead of defending champions Bolivar and Litoral.

The Strongest had just beaten classic rivals Bolivar 2-0.

VENEZUELA: Newcomers Pepeganga from the island of Margarita sent league leaders Caracas FC to their first defeat in 11 games and joined them at the top of the table.

ARIOS V BEST

. . . BY ERIC WEIL

The championship this season has a record number of 16 clubs.

PERU: With two matches to go in the de-centralized championship, Sporting Cristal hold a one-point lead and have a game in hand over the season's revelations, Alianza Atletico from Sullana, just over 1,000 kilometres north of Lima

MEXICO: Atlante are the surprise leaders, with the highest points total, after 10 games of the first division in which Cruz Azul's Manuel Lapuente became the third coach to be dismissed this season.

Uruguayan Carlos Miloc lasted only five games at Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulicas, while Paraguayan Cayetano left Necaxa after eight games.

HONDURAS: Olimpia are on the point of winning the Honduras title for the third year running and they have also reached the final of the CONCACAF Club Championship against Defense Force of Trinidad Tobago.

URUGUAY: Danubio, one of Uruguay's smaller clubs, completed the "double" in 1988 — something only done previously by big clubs Penarol and Nacional — by winning both the "Competencia" pre- season tournament and the first division.

Yet, due to a curious rule in Uruguayan soccer, they will still have to play in a six-team qualifying tournament, the "Liguilla", for the two places in the 1989 Libertadores Cup, together with Penarol, Defensor, Huracan Buceo, Wanderers and Liverpool.

It was Danubio's first ever first division title — small clubs have now won three of the last five — and they did it with attractive attacking soccer played by youngsters (average age 20) with low salaries who really showed that they were playing for fun and whose style brought the fans back to the stadium.

Coach Ildo Maneiro, a former Uruguayan international, used as his fundamental weapon the improvisational skills of his players who were not tied down by tactical schemes.

Danubio came to be known as the "new miracle of Uruguayan soccer" in a country of only just over three million inhabitants — more Uruguayans live abroad than at home — where soccer is considered more of a passion than a sport.

Danubio's success saw the re-birth of Uruguay's former style of creative and entertaining soccer, which had brought the country so many triumphs in the past.

That, in itself, makes Danubio unique. Their history is also somewhat unique.

The club was formed by a bunch of schoolboys in the Montevideo district of their school, Curva de Maronas, and at the house of Maria Mincheff de Lazarov, a Bulgarian and mother of one of the boys, in 1932.

It was she who gave the club its name in memory of the river which flowed near the place of her birth.

As for the colours, when the boys sold raffle tickets to raise the money for shirts, one man bought ten on the condition that they adopt the black and white of the Wanderers club which had that season won the Uruguayan championship.

In its early years, the club, really just a team, only played friendlies against other boys teams of the same age (between 10 and 14) but they won their first boys tournament in 1932.

By 1935 they had the loan of a club house (from one of their supporters) and as the boys grew up they played in various Montevideo amateur leagues with some success, but only joined the Uruguayan FA's tournaments in 1941.

Six years later they had reached the first division and by 1954 they had taken the vice-championship for the first time.

They were relegated twice, but did not stay down long and in 1978 they qualified for the Libertadores Cup for the first time, also taking part again six years later.

The club — which today owns its modern club house (since 1977) and stadium (1957) — has from the start given youngsters every chance and continues to have a wealth of junior talent available which never seems to dry up.

Many of its players played for the national team and went to foreign clubs, one of the best known at the moment being Sergio Santin with Colombia's America.

One of their leading players was striker Ruben Sosa, who was transferred to Baragotas of Spain and then Italy's Lazio.

But they soon managed to replace him with another goalscoring star in Ruben "Polilla" Da Silva who finished as leading first division scorer with 21 goals — Danubio scored 53 in 24 games — after also topping the table in the pre-season tournament with 12 goals.

NO sooner had Nacional added the Europe-South America Cup (in Tokyo) to their 1988 Libertadores Cup, coach Roberto Fleitas handed in his resignation — a possibility he had already mentioned earlier.

At press time the club was engaged in seeking a successor as they were due to play in an international tournament in Los Angeles (US) and later for the first South American "Recopa" between Libertadores Cup winners and those of the newly instituted Super Cup (Racing Club Avellaneda of Argentina).

URUGUAYAN TITLES (since 1932)

First Division: 29 — Penarol; 23 — Nacional; 2 — Defensor; 1 — Central, Espanol, Danubio.

WANDERERS have sold star forward Enrique Baez to Rapid Vienna for £200,000.

Uruguayan champions Danubio. Back row (from left): Eber Moas, Daniel Sanchez, Ruben Pereira, Javier Zeoli, Fernando Kanapkis, Nelson Cabrera. Front: Edgar Borges, Ruben Da Silva, Edison Suarez, Gustavo Dalto and Luis Da Luz.

SOCRATES MAKES HIS COMEBACK

SOCRATES has returned to football and everyone in Brazil is excited about it — except Socrates himself.

The man known locally as "Doctor Socrates" made his comeback at the end of November, 18 months after leaving Flamengo apparently for permanent retirement.

Brazilian newspapers have been digging into their archives and writing all sorts of "exclusive" features about him — but the man himself seems to wonder what all the fuss is about.

At 34, Socrates has no great plans, is making no outrageous predictions about his future and says simply that he came back "because he felt like it".

He told World Soccer: "I came back for pleasure. I like to do whatever my fancy takes me at the time.

"I stopped playing because I didn't feel like it at the time and I came back when I felt like it again."

Socrates is even more casual and unhurried off the field than he is on it. He has the air of a man who has no cares or worries in the world.

When he signed up for Santos, it was on the basis that he was a special player and therefore wasn't subject to the same rules as his colleagues. He turns up for training when he feels like it and generally pleases himself on and off the pitch.

Take the afternoon of December 14 at Santos' Vila Belmira stadium.

While his colleagues played a 90-minute training game in 90 degrees heat, Socrates turned up half an hour late, signed a few autographs, spent 20 minutes in the changing room, came out, did a bit of ball juggling for a local photographer, got changed again and spent the rest of the afternoon chatting to reporters.

But when you've starred in two World Cups for Brazil, have made yourself a fortune and are a fully qualified doctor, you may feel you've earned a few privileges.

In addition, you have no need to worry about the future and Socrates doesn't.

In sharp contrast to Michel Platini, for example, who had grand visions about interviewing the world's most important people on his own television show, Socrates has barely thought about the years that lie ahead.

He seems to have a vague idea about something "associating medicine with sport" but all he can say with certainty is that it will be "whatever takes my fancy at the time."

Could he turn to football management? "I don't know, I haven't thought about it."

Could he follow Platini and be manager of his country? "It could be, but it's not something that worries me at the moment."

Although intelligent and very pleasant, Socrates is a bit of an interviewer's nightmare, the sort of person who answers questions with a straight "yes", "no" or "I don't know".

The silverware on display in Santos' amazing trophy room tends to give away more than he does. If he were to go on "Wogan" with Kenny Dalglish, it would more than likely be Dalglish who did most of the talking in the five minutes or so the programme would probably last.

Not even the sad state of Brazilian football seems to cause him much concern.

He did describe the current organisation as "horrible" and the CBF as "a very big mess". But he added philosophically: "It always has been very disorganised and lacking in planning with the best players going to Europe.

"But it's a moment — in Brazil it's very easy to find good players."

His solution to the chaos is simply to wait and hope. "The problem is that it's an authoritarian structure and it depends very much on who's on top.

"The more incompetent they are, the worse it is. The ideal thing would be to make the structure more democratic but this will be difficult because football is something essentially conservative, therefore we just have to wait and hope that someone more competent turns up."

He does not see Brazil having a single national championship in the near future.

"The ideal would be a single championship, but the country is very big, with very big cultural differences and regional differences."

When Socrates announced that he wanted to make a return, it was at first thought that he would join Corinthians of Sao Paulo, one of his former clubs.

But the two were unable to agree terms and it was Santos, the club for which Pele scored over 1,000 goals, which gave him the chance.

Socrates was just in time to play six games before the hotly disputed one-month holiday began. He scored two goals and was ironically the architect of a 2-1 win over Corinthians which helped save Santos from relegation.

He said he was enjoying his football more than before "because I'm under less pressure" but he was not quite at his best.

"I don't feel perfect as I was a long time without playing, but I feel okay," he added.

When does he intend to stop playing? You can probably guess.

CLUB FOCUS ON BOTAFOGO

PRES FOR

LIFE is not easy when you're a player or manager with Botafogo. In a country where two consecutive defeats constitute a "crisis" and lead to speculation about the manager's future, Botafogo are under pressure more than any other club to achieve success.

Since 1970 the club has employed no fewer than 46 managers while in the last ten years 18 players have tried in vain to successfully fill the centre-forward role.

None lasted more than one season before succumbing to the pressures exerted by supporters and directors.

The fate of this year's candidate, Claudio Adao, was typical.

In the second game of the Brazilian championship he had the misfortune to waste a good chance during the match and then miss his attempt in the penalty shoot-out which now decides all drawn. games.

He received so much abuse from the terraces that manager Jair Pereira decided to play him in only away games for the rest of the year to spare him further punishment from the club's "supporters".

The reason Botafogo are under so much pressure is simple: they have one of the most illustrious histories of all Brazilian clubs, they have been represented by some of the world's greatest players but they have not won a championship since 1968.

You could compare them with Manchester United. But at least United have managed to win the FA Cup and can claim to have plenty of serious rivals for the League title.

SOCRATES . . . beating the pressure.

. . . by BRIAN HOMEWOOD

SURE ON BOTAFOGO

Botafogo, on the other hand, compete in the Rio state championship where only three other teams — Vasco, Flamingo and Fluminense — have a realistic chance of winning,

The remaining eight teams simply make up the numbers and help the competition drag on for six months.

Botafogo also take part in a Brazilian championship which, at least until a couple of years ago, bore more resemblance to a knockout cup — but they have not had any luck in that either.

Their failure is more like Celtic or Rangers going 20 years without winning either the Scottish League or Cup: the same for Benfica and Porto in Portugal or Real Madrid and Barcelona in Spain.

Maybe it's even bigger when you consider some of the players who have worn the club's black and white striped shirts. These include:

Garrincha: Probably the best of them all. Some claim he was better than Pele.

Famous for his amazing dribbling skills and acceleration, he could only be stopped by being fouled. All this in spite of having a left leg six centimetres longer than his right and being unable to walk normally.

When he turned up for his trial as an apprentice nobody believed he could play.

He starred for Brazil in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups, was a Botafogo player from 1953 to 1963, but died sadly of alcohol poisoning.

Nilton Santos: Arguably one of the world's best-ever full- backs, he was known as the "Encyclopedia of football" for his balance, elegance and the security he gave to the defence.

He also played in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups and was a Botafogo player from 1948 to 1965.

Didi: Another who played in the 1958 and 1962 World Cups and therefore won two World Cup winners medals as a Botafogo player.

Known for his passing, through balls and unstoppable freekicks, he played for Botafogo from 1956 to 1966, apart from a brief spell with Real Madrid.

Jairzinho: Played in the 1970 World Cup where he achieved something unique by scoring in each of Brazil's seven games.

Played for the club from 1961 to 1974, returning again in 1981 via France, Venezuela and Bolivia.

Gerson: Known for his 40-yard passes and perfect free kicks, though he had a reputation for violence. Also played in the 1970 World Cup. A Botafogo player from 1963 and 1969.

Carlos Alberto: Known for his efficiency and unquestioned leadership, he captained Brazil in the 1970 World Cup.

Other famous names include **Amarildo, the goalkeeper Manga** and **Mario Zagalo**.

In fact, most Botafogo supporters will tell you that Brazil owes more to this club than any other for their three World Cup wins.

The club provided the captain, top-scorer, manager and physiotherapist for the 1970 team. In 1962 they provided five members of the team who between them scored eight of Brazil's 14 goals in th tournament, while they also provided more players for Brazil since the World Cup began than any other club.

And there have been occasions when Brazil have put out a team composed almost entirely of Botafogo players — an example was a 4-1 win over Argentina in 1968 in which eight Botafogo players took part.

In the light of all this, you can understand why the "Botafoguenses" have become so frustrated at the club's recent failures.

The last time they had anything to celebrate was 21 years ago when Botafogo beat Fortaleza in the final of the old "Brazil Cup", a competition which preceded the much bigger national championship.

Three months earlier the club had beaten Vasco 4-0 in the final of the Caioca championship, Gerson and Jairzinho had been among the scorers and 141,000 had watched the game in the Maracana stadium.

Before that, Botafogo had won the Carioca title on 11 previous occasions (1910, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1948, 1957, 1961, 1962, 1964 and 1967) and the old Rio-Sao Paulo Cup three times (1962, 1964 and 1966).

Silver

All they have to show since are a couple of Carioca finals and the semi-final of the national championship in 1981.

The club have not lacked good players or managers recently — Mario Zagalo (three times), Tele Santana and Didi have all been in charge — so why haven't they been able to carry off at least one piece of silver?

Every "Botafoguense" has his own idea, but the failure is usually put down to either: disorganization (though most clubs in Brazil suffer from this); loss of identity; and the pressure.

Loss of identity probably gets the most votes. Until 1976, Botafogo had their own stadium in the suburb of the same name.

But in that year it was sold to pay off a debt and the club have been spread all over the place ever since.

The headquarters remain close to the site of the old stadium, while the official training ground lies over an hour's bus ride away.

However, this ground is only used occasionally because of the poor state of the pitch — the team actually use six different training grounds while three different stadia are used for the home games.

Supporters claim that the club will never be the same until they once again have their own stadium where training, home matches and meeting all take place.

Then there's the pressure. This is something of a vicious circle because the pressure grows with every year that goes by without success and the more pressure there is, the more difficult it is to win.

Although centre-forwards and managers suffer the most, club official Jose Dias says that everyone is a victim.

"The team of today has nothing to do with not winning in the last 20 years but they feel the pressure," he said.

"It makes life particularly unpleasant for the young players who are hero-worshipped if they make a promising debut and then abused as soon as they have a bad game."

Dias also says that directors have no long term policies because they want to win something immediately and when they don't win anything they usually sack the manager.

As for bad organization, the clubs are actually two clubs which merged in 1942 — Botafogo football club and Botafogo Regattas (rowing) club.

The two clubs have never got on well and the football section claim that the regatta section are not interested in them at all.

Overall control is in the hands of a president, below which are several vice-presidents, one each for football, regattas, finance, administration and sponsorship.

All these regattas, finance, administration and sponsorship.

All these officials are amateurs and unless they work together — and they usually don't — the clubs do not run smoothly.

Ex-player and manager Joao Saldanha claims that not all the directors the club has had recently have been genuinely interested in Botafogo.

"There have been a lot of people without competence wanting to appear to win prestige at the expense of Botafogo," he says.

He blames the directors' inexperience for Botafogo's failure to reach the final of the national championship in 1981.

In that year, Botafogo had an away game to Sao Paulo in the semi final.

At half time they were winning 2-0 when Sao Paulo officials allegedly threatened referee Braulio Zanotti.

Saldanha claims that Botafogo should have abandoned the game, gone home and discussed the affair at the tribunal.

But they didn't 'because of the inexperience of the directors,' and Sao Paulo won the match 3-2.

Other more exotic reasons are sometimes given. "Botafoguenses" are traditionally superstitious and some people seriously claim that the bones of a donkey buried under the team's official training pitch have put a jinx on the team.

Others believed that last year was to bring success as it was a leap year — as were 1904 when the club was founded and 1948 and 1968 when the club won the Caruica championship.

Fate

In 1948 a group of supporters adopted a black and white dog called Biriba as their mascot and he was believed to have been responsible for the winning of the championship.

This prompted the club's directors to bring a dalmatian called Borus to the Maracana for a game against Santa Cruz a couple of years ago in the hope that fate would repeat itself.

They were wrong, Botafogo played badly and lost 1-0 and Borus had to be escorted from the ground before the game finished for his safety.

Last year's (1988) Brazilian championship was fairly typical for the current Botafogo.

At the start of the competition, the fans went to the first home game in their thousands, arguing about why the club never win any more and promising themselves that this time around it would be different.

By the fourth game, the team had already lost a couple of times and the supporters turned against the team, in particular poor Claudio Adao.

Halfway through the competition, the team had two consecutive impressive wins.

But they fell away again and ended up fighting relegation and playing in front of crowds of 5,000 and less.

Things were even worse in the Carioca championship where Botafogo did not even hold their rightful place in the top four, laughingly losing out to Americano of Campos.

In contrast to previous years, Botafogo have no representatives at all in the Brazilian team.

They do have Josimar, the right-back who played in Mexico and who scored two excellent goals, but even he is thought unlikely to represent Brazil in Italy by the club's own officials.

When this year's Carioca championship gets under way, the Botafogo faithful will once again raise their hopes and say this will be their year.

Will they be right . . . or will they have to wait another 21 years?

Milos Drizic signs for Southampton watched by Saints manager Chris Nicholl.

WHO IS MILOS?

MYSTERY surrounds Southampton's signing of Yugoslav defender Milos Drizic from Rad Belgrade.

When his identity first leaked out after he turned up to watch a reserve game at The Dell it was claimed he was a Yugoslav international who had played six times for his country.

But when he signed a reported £200,000 transfer under the watchful eyes of manager Chris Nicholl the story had changed. Now Drizic was said to have played three times for his country and been a member of their squad at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

A close check through international records could produce no record of anyone named Drizic ever having played a senior international for Yugoslavia. Also, FIFA's official squad lists from the 1982 World Cup have no note of anyone named Drizic registered for Yugoslavia. Milos Hrstic and Milos Sestic are both there but both men are now in their early 30s; Drizic 28.

The next step was a telex to Ante Pavlovic, general secretary of the Yugoslav federation in Belgrade. His answer only added to the mystery. Drizic, said Pavlovic after checking his own records, had played for Yugoslavia's B team in a 2-0 win over Rumania B on May 9, 1982, in Albayulia. He was a substitute (not used, apparently) when Yugoslavia played Switzerland on October 26, 1983 and the next month he was called up (but again did not play) for a friendly against France.

If Drizic were an EEC citizen all this would not matter. He could come and work/play here. But non-EEC nationals need to justify their value to secure a work permit. In football terms that has, in the past, meant full international caps . . .

SAVIOUR SUSIC

from MLADEN BILIC

YUGOSLAVIA are looking to their golden oldies to rehabilitate their football at both international and domestic levels after all the match-fixing scandals of recent years.

And no 'oldie' is more golden at the moment than Safet Susic, in erratic exile for years at French league leaders Paris Saint- Germain . . . and who was recalled to inspire the Slavs to a vital World Cup victory over France in Belgrade last November.

Unlike most Yugoslav internationals, 33-year-old Susic did not make gradual progress up the national team ladder.

He had never played for the youth selection, or for the B team when, on October 2, 1977, he simply forced his way into the senior side.

Manager Marko Valok had to call him up after Susic's magnificent games for his only Yugoslav club, Sarajevo.

In his first international, 11 years ago in Budapest, he was the man of the match, scoring two goals against Hungary.

A month later in Bucharest he scored a hat-trick against Rumania in a World Cup qualifier.

Susic completed his hat-trick of hat-tricks for the national team in 1979 — scoring three goals against Italy in June in Zagreb and against Argentina in September.

In 1982 Susic joined the ranks of the dollar millionaires when he put his signature on a lucrative contract with Paris Saint- Germain.

He proved to be both a crowd-puller and a match-winner as PSG won both the league and the cup.

Yet, just when he was giving his best performances for the Paris team in 1984, he began his four-year absence from the national team.

His last match was a 3-2 European Championship defeat by France on June 19, 1984.

Four years later he had his revenge over France. This time Yugoslavia were the 3-2 winners.

Manager Ivica Osim's gamble had paid off.

Susic barely knew his Yugoslav team-mates. Indeed, only a few weeks before the match he accepted French citizenship so that Paris SG could sign another foreigner.

But when he heard that the French FA president had launched an attack on the Paris club's directors, the new French citizen decided to do his best for his old country by way of revenge.

Osim, knowing that the qualifier against France was practically his last chance to stay as manager, decided to put his fate in the hands of a predominately foreign-based team.

So only Spasic, Savicevic, Stanojkovic and Stojkovic, came from Yugoslav clubs.

The real miracle however proved the entrance of Dejan Savicevic of Red Star.

He had been on army service and had only a few days leave for the match. He played only the last 20 minutes but that was enough for him to help Susic and Stojkovic score the goals which turned the game around.

The future looks bright for Osim now.

Only a catastrophe can block his road to Italy now that he has found a winning blend of players from the Bundesliga and the French and Italian leagues.

The Red Star duo of Stojkovic and Savicevic are the only automatic Yugoslav league choices.

The domestic club scene was once again hurt by numerous departures abroad.

But there has been some transfer movement the other way.

While Red Star were trying to buy back their former skipper Vladimir Petrovic from France, Vojvodina snapped up another Belgrade veteran, Milos Sestic, from Greece. Sestic, angry at director Dragan Dzajic's lack of interest, decided to prove Red Star wrong and has played some of the best football of his career to put Vojvodina on the top of the league ladder.

Hajduk Split are reminding us of their glory days. After an unhappy experiment with Bulgarian coach Ivan Vutsov, they decided to rely on their former players.

Jurica Jerkovic is now technical director with former marksman Pero Nadoveza returning for a second stint in the team manager's role.

A lot will depend on Nenad Gracan, who is trying to make a comeback after breaking his leg twice in 1987. Also, Ivan Gudelj is training again. Hajduk's former skipper has been sidelined for three years because of complications following hepatitis.

Belodedici turns to Yugoslavia

MIODRAG BELODEDICI, star sweeper of Steaua Bucharest, is seeking asylum in Yugoslavia.

Belodedici left Rumania just before Christmas on a tourist visa and has been staying with his mother's family — he was born in Yugoslavia, moving to Rumania as a child — in a town 60 miles east of Belgrade.

Belodedici has formally requested asylum in Yugoslavia and problems are not expected because he is considered Serbian.

Red Star Belgrade have agreed in principle to sign Belodedici, who has always been a supporter of the club. But Red Star have met a blank response to attempts to reach an amicable agreement with Steaua.

A Rumanian government official said in Bucharest: "Belodedici left Rumania on a tourist visa, which is perfectly normal, and Steaua are now awaiting his return."

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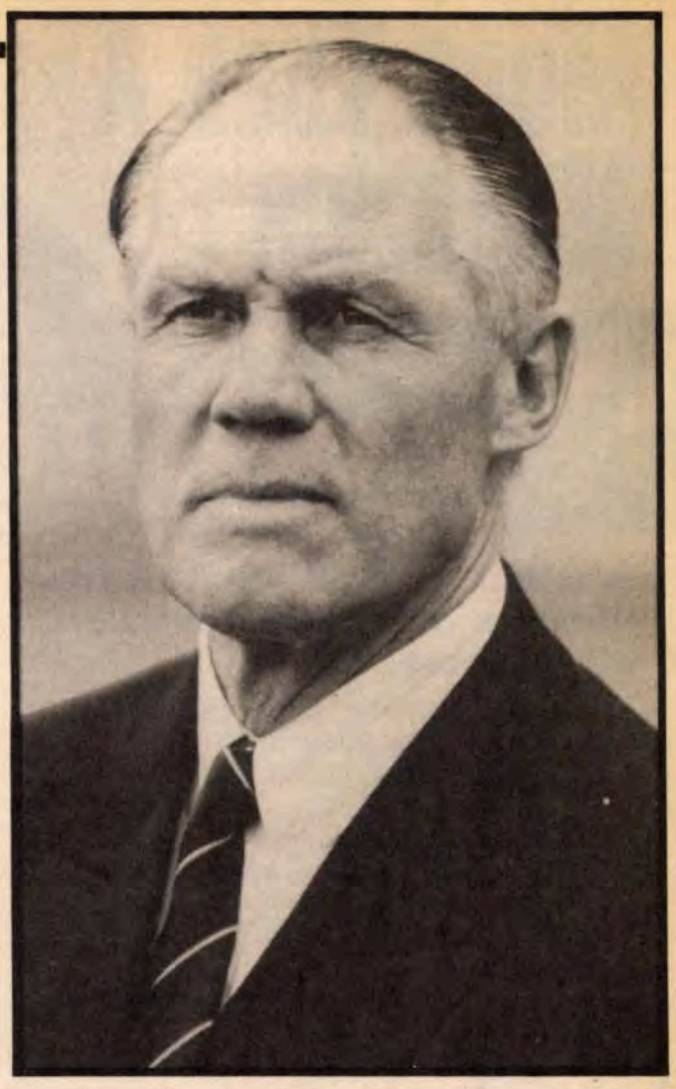

'Iron' Rinus Michels

RINUS MICHELS, the architect of Holland's European Championship triumph last summer and subsequently voted Manager of the Year by World Soccer readers, has hit a crisis point since his return to club football in neighbouring West Germany.

At the half-way stage in the Bundesliga, his works team of Bayer Leverkusen were lying ninth with just four wins in 17 matches. Has the "Iron Man" lost his touch?

Modest

Bayer were, after all, the UEFA-Cup holders but under Michels they crashed out in the first round this season to modest Belenenses of Portugal.

Worse was to follow as, in the league, his team stuttered and is now placed lower than in the last three years when they finished sixth, sixth and eighth.

After the last Bundesliga home match, a 1-2 defeat by Hamburger SV, most of the 10,500 fans in the Ulrich-Haberland Stadium, screamed abuse and "Michels raus" (out).

Their protests were louder than ever because in the stand sat one Erich Ribbeck, who led Leverkusen to the UEFA Cup triumph before becoming "Sports Director" in Hamburg.

The crowd also chanted "Ribbeck, Ribbeck", as if demanding his re-instatement.

Michels was visibly upset at this reaction of the supporters — the 60-year-old, whom they call "The General" or "The Bulldog", asked Leverkusen's technical director Michael Meier: "What happened to the oft-lauded decency of the Bayer fans?"

Michels and Meier have already once worked together in West Germany when the famous Dutchman was engaged by Koln as their team boss.

He didn't really want to go back to club management, especially one he didn't know much about.

Michels did reject an offer from PSV Eindhoven because they wanted him to sign on for five years — "at my age this would have been too long, almost a lifetime," he claimed.

In the early eighties he tried but failed with Koln (Cologne) because he treated the players like exchangeable figures and they soon rebelled, demonstrating their animosity towards the "trainer" verbally and through their attitude on the pitch.

It seems that Michels is making the same mistakes at Leverkusen.

The players, too, complain they are unsettled and lack confidence in their own ability, being subjected to constant positional changes.

Stable

The Dutchman counters with the argument that professional sportsmen must be psychologically stable to cope with the circumstances, but apparently he is not having the success he and the club management had hoped for.

The biggest criticism levelled at the renowned coach is that he began the season advocating a 'hurrah-style' of attacking football, but then changed his tactics in midstream.

Lately Bayer have played apprehensively, often content with a draw and thus losing all their sparkle and pulling power.

"I am also unhappy about our game," confides Michels. But for reasons of prestige he is not yet thinking of quitting and dissolving the contract which has to run until 1990.

Director Meier, brought specially from Koln to help Michels, says: "It will get better.

"A year ago, the Bayern Munich fans were demanding Udo Lattek back. Today, Jupp Heynckes is safe in the saddle."

Leverkusen's general manager, Reiner Calmund, regrets that the relations between Michels and the fans are still strained.

"We at board level must clear the air and discuss the situation with Michels openly," he said.

"But although we won't allow ourselves to be put under pressure, one cannot overlook the fact that, after the debacle against Hamburg, the displeasure of the crowd turned into open hate and derisive singing.

"Not just on the terraces, but the VIP's too were disgusted. We shall have to try to repair the relations between the manager and the supporters, otherwise further collaboration with Herr Michels is no longer feasible.

"That is a pity, because we are still of the opinion that he is an outstanding trainer. Of course, to patch up the differences we badly need a winning streak.

"Thanks to the winter break we have reached what can be termed an 'armistice'.

"But then all will depend on the team's performances; at the moment several players are against Michels.

"But we've had problems with trainers before, such tensions are common in football.

"On the other hand, no club can afford to stage home matches in such a poisoned atmosphere as experienced at our ground lately.

"And the drop in attendances is a warning and at the same time an additional burden on the players."

Furthermore, Michels' relations with the media have also sunk to an all-time low.

He has also found out that his successes with Holland now count for nothing.

Bayer's players are bitter because nobody is certain of a team place. They are, however, well rewarded.

The club is supported and sponsored by one of the world's largest chemical works, pay £700 per league point, when the team is placed between first and third; £600 when lying between fourth and sixth; and £500 for a placing between seventh and tenth. But for 11th place there is no bonus at all!

Gates at Leverkusen have slumped to 13,688 on average — the club needs 14,000 to break even.

And so the man who made his name at Ajax, took on Barcelona, was runner-up in the 1974 World Cup, also managed Los Angeles Aztecs, Koln and took the Dutch national side to glory just six months ago, is now under fire and could finish his managerial career as a failure.

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ASIAN CUP REPORT from BOB PATEMAN and WALID TABRA

SAUDIS REPAY 'ARMY' OF FANS

THE Asian Cup kicked off in Qatar to fears of on-pitch violence and Middle East dominance.

The regional soccer supremo, Asian Confederation secretary Peter Velappan, personally directed referees to be firm with offenders as, with matches going out across the world, these championships were seen as a perfect way to advertise Asian football.

There was certainly cause for concern. Japan for example, went into the first match without iron man defender Masami Ihara who had been sent off in the qualifying rounds.

The referees and players appeared to get the message and there were no major incidents to spoil the occasion.

As for the second point, although the Middle East did supply seven of the ten qualifiers, and were enjoying home advantage, honours were evenly divided between the Middle and Far East.

The biggest problem was the total apathy of the local fans if the home side was not playing.

This was not a problem for Saudi Arabia or Kuwait who had flown in a small army of their own supporters but only 200 spectators turned up for the Japan-Korea, China-Bahrain double header leaving the players to perform in an empty arena, totally lacking in atmosphere.

The opening day saw home side Qatar play one of the favourites, Iran, and in a close fought match it was the Iranians who triumphed 2-0, a goal coming in each half.

On the same day, holders Saudi Arabia had a solid start against Syria, winning 2-0 to confirm their positions as co- favourites with the Koreans.

However, when South Korea turned out the following day they struggled against UAE, a single goal giving them victory in a nervous start.

Bahrain, who throughout this tournament proved difficult to beat without ever looking likely to actually win a game, opened with a goaless draw against Kuwait.

Kuwait also had trouble in their second game with Saudi and were lucky to escape with a point. Saudi had two goals disallowed by French referee Michel Vautrot, while linesman George Courtney flagged down Majed Abdullah for offside when he had just the goalkeeper to beat.

China began against Syria and they gave the most impressive performance yet, racing to a 3-0 half time lead with goals from Gao Sheng and one from the excellent Xie Yuxing.

Two days later Bahrain and China fought a tough, close match, which seemed to be heading for a draw.

In the last quarter of an hour, however, the Chinese proved stronger, Duan Ju, the left winger started to cause the defence serious problems and his cross provided the only foal for Zhang Xiaowen.

The same day South Korea more or less made sure of their semi final place, first half goals from Huang Seon Hong and Kim Joo Sung taking them to a 2-0 victory over Japan.

Iran, however, in their second game struggled against the United Arab Emirates. They won 1-0 to take four points from two games but this was far from a convincing performance.

Despite having had a three day rest their players looked exhausted during the last quarter of and hour, which cast doubts over their ability to progress beyond the semi finals.

To the delight of the home fans, Qatar recovered from their opening defeat to take an early 2-0 lead over UAE, eventually winning 2-1 to keep alive faint hopes of a semi final spot.

At the half way stage there was the surprising sight of both groups being headed by Far East nations, China and South Korea being on top at that stage.

Moving into the second half of the fixtures, Kuwait and Iran both ran into trouble.

Kuwait generally had the better of Syria but missed several chances and went down by a single goal. Their weaknesses were even more exposed by South Korea who, with a semi-final place now secure, made several changes for this match.

They hit another three goals to take their total to nine goals in four games with just two conceded.

Coach Lee Hoe-Taik was quoted as saying that of the sides left in the competition, Saudi Arabia were the only one he felt might pose problems for his team.

Almost unnoticed was Syria's creditable win over Bahrain which moved them from the bottom of the table.

China make mathematically certain of their semi final place with a 2-2 draw with Kuwait.

After a hard fought but goalless first half, captain Ma Lin took a pass from Wang Bao Shan to score just two minutes after the restart.

For the first time in this tournament Kuwait managed to sparkle a little and two goals on the hour put them in front.

Ma, however, headed his second goal minutes from the end to save the Chinese from an embarrassing defeat.

Brazilian manager Prokopio saw his team finish the section with a 3-0 win over Japan, Khamis scoring two second half goals to lead his team to victory.

It was a respectable performance from this tiny nation and reflects their recent success in junior and youth events.

For Japan, however, it was a miserable tournament which saw them fail to score a single goal.

The final places in group 2 were decided the same day with Saudi Arabia beating China thanks to a 57th minute foal from Fahd Hrifi.

China, ahead and only needing a draw to top the group, played a disappointing, defensive game and paid the price.

Indeed with Majed Abdullah enjoying his best match of the tournament they were lucky not to go down by a greater margin.

It was a vital win for the two points took Saudi to the top of the table and they thus avoided a semi final clash with the feared South Koreans.

Behind these two Syria, with little record of soccer success, could feel happy with their two wins but for Kuwait — the one- time regional super power — it was a dismal tournament.

China, having ended the group on a low note, bounced back in the semi finals to give Korea their toughest game so far.

Without a goal in the 90 minutes the match moved into extra time and suddenly sprung to life.

Lee Tai-Hao put Korea ahead, Mai Chao equalized and Tai-Hao scored again, all in a ten minute period.

It was a sad way for China to go out but no doubt they will win this trophy sometime in the near future.

On this occasion, however, Korea had been the team of the tournament and a final without them would have been a hollow occasion.

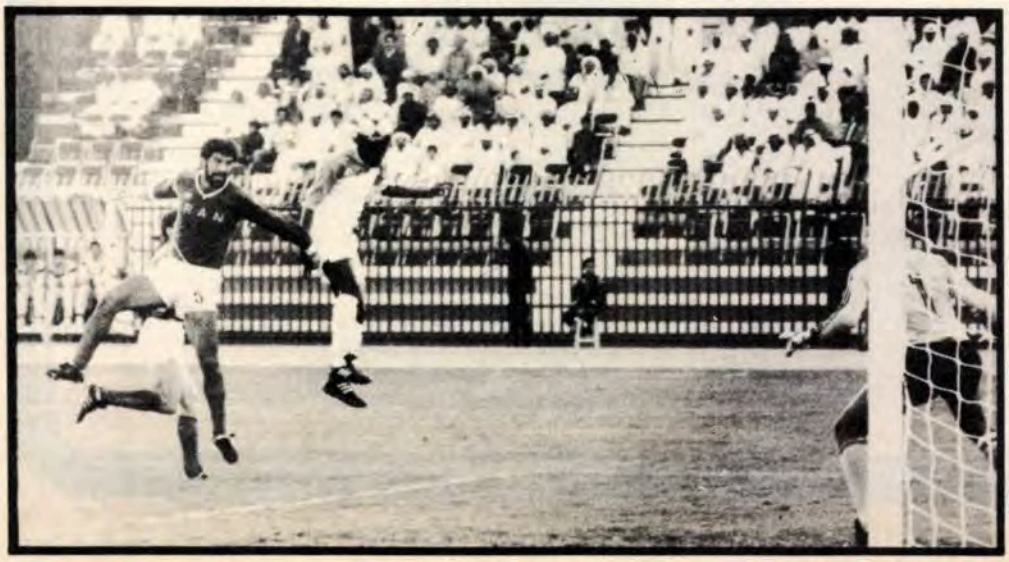
In the second semi final Saudi and Iran produced another close fought match, Saudi taking a first half lead when four defenders stood watching as Majed headed home.

The goal spurred Iran into life and they took control of mid field and managed to get the ball into the net only to have the effort disallowed.

Saudi brought on Yousef Jaaza and the powerful forward helped turn the tide.

He was too slow to seriously endanger the Iran defence but his height, power and ability to shield the ball carried the battle back into

Majid Abdullah heads Saudi Arabia's semi-final winner against Iran.



Asian champions Saudi Arabia. Back (from left): Mohammed Suwaid, Salih Nuaima, Majid Abdullah, Abdullah Suwaid, Fahad Heraifi, Ahmed Jameel. Front: Salih Al Salih, Muhaisen Jaman, Fahad Musaibeeh, Abdullah Dawsari, Mohammed Abdul Jawad.

their half of the field and relieved pressure on his own goal.

Indeed, Iran conceded a penalty, which Majed put wide of the keeper's left and into the net.

The referee, however, rightly noticed that two Saudi forwards had raced into the area before the kick was taken and disallowed the goal.

Taking the kick for the second time Majed choose the right but put the ball too close to the keeper.

This silly mistake caaused Saudi manager Carlos Alberto Parreira and their fans a worrying closing ten minutes but, in the end, did not affect the result.

Iran and China fought out a rather pointless third place match that was finally decided, in Iran's favour, by penalties.

South Korea kicked off in the Final and for the opening few minutes stroked the ball around with an assurance reminiscent of the 1974 Dutch side.

However, the first chances fell to Saudi for whom Majed Abdullah was looking sharp.

He followed a powerful run at goal with lovely first time flicks across the penalty area to keep the Koreans under pressure.

Kim Joo-Sung, with his European-style hair perm, was the most noticeable of the Koreans in this early stage, not only for his fashion, but for his willingness to keep the ball and try to create a shooting opportunity.

On the quarter of the hour mark he jinxed and weaved into the area and put in a powerful shot that the keeper did well to hold.

The two teams had noticeably different styles. Saudi played almost like an African side, all passion and drive, while the Koreans put a European-type polish to everything to make difficult moves look simple.

But it was the Saudis who started to take control of the first half and they had two great chances from goalmouth scrambles that the Koreans somehow managed to clear off the line.

Saudi had taken control as much with muscle as skill and Cho Min Kook, the influential Korean midfielder, went off after receiving what looked a deliberate elbow in the face.

Hee returned, his head bandaged, to give a magnificent display of powerful running and tackling and simple, effective passing.

South Korea, breaking when they could, started to expose left back Mohammed Jawad, a short powerful player who was happier going forward than defending.

His name went into the book for shouldering down his winger and as the game begun to be dominated by pushing and flashing studs.

The Saudi control started to fade.

The second half saw the packed terraces explode into a sea of noise and green flags as the crowd cheered on Saudi Arabia and although this was perhaps never a great game we suddenly had a great occasion.

Korea brought on Byun Byung-Joo after just a few minutes and Kim Joo -Sung was booked for what did not look a particularly bad tackle.

Seven minutes into the half Saudi had another good chance to go ahead.

The ball was swept into the Korean penalty area and Majed, that master of space and position, got in his touch but the keeper was able to smooth the ball.

Korea, now with a second substitute, Tue-Ho-Lee, on the pitch, had another escape in the 18th minute of the half when the defence, for once, left a man unmarked and there was another untidy clearance off the line.

Indeed, Korea were looking remarkably vulnerable to any cross from the wings yet Saudi could never quite find that final touch.

The question now was could Korea survive extra time? They were under pressure, had used two of their subs and full back Park Kyung-Hoon, who had an excellent game, was still on the pitch despite clutching a limp left arm.

However, for that last extra half hour it was Cho Min-Kook who dominated, adding strength and power to the midfield, coming forward to try a run at goal then going back to help the defence clear a high cross.

He was, to my mind, the player of the match and kept Korea in the game in the closing stages.

So to penalties, never a satisfactory way to decide a match, least of all a final, and it was Korea who made the first mistake, Cho Min-Kook seeing his shot hit the post and bounce back across the goalmouth without crossing the line.

Mohamed Jawad, taking Saudi's second shot, also saw his effort bounce off the woodwork but we then moved to 3-3.

At that stage the Koreans last shot was pushed onto the post and spun away.

The Korean goalkeeper came forward to try to save the day. As with the previous two Saudi shots the ball was not particularly well placed but, although the keeper got a touch, he could not keep it out of the net. Saudi Arabia were Asian Champions.

1988 ASIAN CUP (in Qatar)

Group A — Iran 2, Qatar 0; UAE 0, S. Korea 1; Japan 0, Iran 0; Qatar 2, UAE 1; S. Korea 2, Japan 0; Iran 1, UAE 0; Qatar 2, S. Korea 3; UAE 1, Japan 0; S. Korea 3, Iran 0 ; Japan 0, Qatar 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	4	4	0	0	9	2	8
Iran	4	2	1	1	3	3	5
Qatar	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
UAE	4	1	0	3	2	4	2
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Group B — Syria 0, Saudi Arabia 2; Kuwait 0, Bahrain 0; China 3, Syria; S. Arabia 0, Kuwait 0; Bahrain 0, China 1; Syria 1, Kuwait 0; S. Arabia 1, Bahrain 1; Kuwait 2, China 2; Bahrain 0, Syria 1; China 0, S. Arabia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	4	2	2	0	3	2	6
China	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Syria	4	2	0	2	2	5	4
Kuwait	4	0	3	1	2	3	3
Bahrain	4	0	2	2	1	3	2

Semi finals — South Korea 2, China 1 (after extra time: 0-0 at 90 minutes); Saudi Arabia 1, Iran 0.

Third play off — Iran 0, China 0 (3-0 pens after extra time)

Final — Saudi Arabia 0, South Korea 0 (Saudi Arabia 4-3 on penalties after extra time). Referee: Michael Vautrot of France.

Top scorer — Lee Tae-hoo (South Korea) 3 goals.

Previous winners — 1956 (in Hong Kong) South Korea. 1960 (Seoul) South Korea. 1964 (Tel Aviv) Israel. 1968 (Teheran) Iran. 1972 (Bangkok) Iran. 1976 (Iran) Iran. 1980 (Kuwait) Kuwait. 1984 (Singapore) Saudi Arabia.

WORLD SOCCER FOUR PAGE SPECIAL ON ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

KOREA A
WANT W

from BOB PATEMAN

THE rumours have started, Asia is to stage the World Cup. Not in 1990 of course, nor 1994 which has also already been assigned. Not even in 1998 for which France are front-runners. But 2002 is the year that is being predicted.

Certainly the signs are good. If France do get the 1998 games then the next championship will have to be outside Europe.

Probably not in South America where continual economic decline seems almost certain.

Maybe in Africa, where Morocco, having already applied once, might again be in the running or perhaps even in the Middle East although Saudi Arabia, the most likely regional host, has hardly been showing great enthusiasm for such a task.

However, at this stage the Asian challenge looks stronger and there are two main candidates: South Korea and China.

Korea must be the favourites for several reasons.

1. Their economy is booming.
2. Their national team is considered the best in the region.
3. They have proven their ability to stage world events with a most successful Olympic Games.
4. The Olympics have left them with an updated system of press hotels and transport network.
5. They already have several modern stadiums that can seat 30,000.

However, China can not be excluded from the race.

1. Above all they are the world's most populous nation and growing superpower in every sense. Their political status will be an important factor.
2. They are desperately keen to impress the world through sporting achievements.
3. They made a generally good impression when staging the junior World Cup.
4. They are to stage the Asian Games next year and as a result all the major stadiums in the capital have been upgraded and several new complexes built. If that event is a success then they will have become serious candidates.

However, against China's hopes is the fact that outside Beijing and Guangzhou many stadiums would not reach the strict FIFA standards and there might also be problems finding sufficient hotels away from the capital.

The internal transport system might also be unable to stand the strain of a World Cup.

This last point is made worse by the enormous size of the country. Gungzhou and Beijing would be certain venues and that is the equivalent of having one group taking place in London and another in Budapest.

Of course there is still a long way to go, but an Asian World Cup looks a distinct possibility.

THAILAND

THE Asian under 16 tournament was staged in Bangkok, Thailand, but it was teams from the Middle East who dominated.

Ten nations entered with the top three sides winning spots to the 1989 under 18 World Championship in Scotland.

Qatar set the ball rolling on the opening day with a 1-0 defeat of North Korea while South Korea, the favourites, did not look comfortable in their 2-1 defeat of Thailand.

Although they went on to beat Japan 3-1 they fared badly against the Arabic sides with the UAE defeating them 2-1, all the goals coming in the second half, and were then thrashed 6-1 by an increasingly confident looking Saudi team.

Qatar, one of the world's smallest nations, maintained their semi final hopes by holding the world's biggest country, China, to a goalless draw.

But this did not stop the Chinese finishing top of their group with six points from their four games.

Iraq and Qatar both finished on the same number of points but Iraq had the better goal average thanks to a 4-0 final win over North Korea.

Saudi Arabia secured the third semi final place with a convincing 3-1 defeat of Thailand and Bahrain, with their best every international performance, took the final spot.

Bahrain's semi final match with China produced lots of excitement but no goals and the Middle East side triumphed on penalties.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq produced an equally close game with the Saudi's winning 2-1 in extra time.

Saudi, as expected went on to win the title, their two first half goals coming from Kalid al-Rowihi. Both goals were well taken from close range, the first with a header.

With a World Cup place to play for, the third place match for once had some meaning and China were able to prevent a complete Arabic triumph by beating Iraq 5-4 on penalties after the game had finished in a 1-1 draw.

CHINA

SPONSORSHIP and private enterprise are making their mark on Chinese football.

The Qixin Pharmaceutical factory of Guangzhou have signed up as the first sponsors of the national team.

The one-year contract will also cover the Chinese women's side.

At the same time the first private soccer school has opened. Situated in Lianoing Province, it will cater for boys born between 1977 and 1982 and will be under the guidance of former youth soccer coach Yang Yumin.

Despite such moves interest in soccer in China appears to be on the decline.

A string of disappointing results at international level and increased prices are the two reasons blamed for falling attendances in big games.

In recent years the national stadium has been half empty for international matches although televised games from Europe still attract a big viewing.

Tickets for an international game cost around 4 yuan (75p) but this amounts to two days pay for many people is a vast increase from just a few years ago when tickets cost 30 fen (about 2p).

Another reason for this decline might well be the lack of any major on-going league to attract regular support.

Instead the major domestic events are the multi sport competitions which give young promising players an occasional opportunity to gain experience in a competitive environment.

The Farmers Games are one such contest and with 30 provinces represented they are a formidable event.

The football title this year went to Shandong who beat Liaoning 3-1.

There is now talk of staging an inter-city game which will provide further good class competition.

GUANGZHOU recently played hosts to a four nation inter city competition that featured teams from Fukuoka, Frankfurt and Auckland.

The home side opened with a draw against Auckland and then beat the Frankfurt city team 2-0.

Auckland also won their second round game, 2-0 against Fukuoka, and it looked as if the trophy would be decided on goal difference.

However, the home side lost 2-1 to Frankfurt which allowed Auckland to take the trophy with a easy victory over Fukuoka.

1st Auckland	**5pts**
2nd Frankfurt	**4pts**
3rd Guangzhou	**3pts**
4th Fukuoka	**0pts**

HONG KONG

A FEW British players on the verge of retirement will be polishing up their boots with the news that the Hong Kong Football League will be accepting foreign players for the 1989/90 season.

The decision was reached in a meeting of first division clubs who decided that, as from next season, each club should be allowed to appoint two overseas professionals.

The move has still to be given final FA approval but that is considered to be a formality.

It's perhaps worth looking back on the history of overseas players in Hong Kong.

The man behind the first professional imports was Ian Petrie. A Scotsman from Glasgow he arrived in Hong Kong to work as a clerk in the docks.

A football pioneer in the old sense he quickly founded Hong Kong Rangers, and there will be no prizes for guessing the inspiration behind that name.

Rangers became the top Hong Kong team and Petrie became a major power in Hong Kong football.

At various times he was manager of the national team, caretaker chairman and vice-chairman of the Football Association.

He did enormous work for youth soccer, helped Hong Kong enter international football and pressured for the introduction of professional players.

Amongst the first signings were Derek Currie, Jackie Trainer and Walter Gerrard.

It is Gerrard who is, perhaps, the best remembered of the three and this powerful looking man amazed and delighted the fans with his ability to head the ball.

Bigger names followed with Willie Henderson playing for the Hong Kong Rangers after a long career with Glasgow Rangers and Scotland.

Times were changing, however. Seiko arrived on the scene with an unending source of finance and Rangers fortunes faded. Petrie, a controversial figure, was regularly making headlines for arguing with his players and he was finally forced out of power and returned to Scotland.

Rangers, surviving on gate money and a few rich supporters could no longer compete with the new generation of sponsored clubs and Henderson was lost to Caroline Hill where he joined countryman Tommy Murray.

In the early 1970's big names were few and far between yet exciting play and keen inter club rivalry could still fill the stadiums.

It was later in the decade that Hong Kong became, for a few short seasons, a soccer mecca to almost rival the States.

Bulova were now on the scene bringing out Tommy Hutchinson and Derek Parlane while Seiko went Dutch signing Arie Haan, Dick Nanninga and Rene van der Kerkhof.

Alan Ball came and went, Bobby Moore coached and stars from every corner of the globe made a fleeting appearance.

Few were successful buys. Few really took the football seriously.

Most disastrous of all was

ND CHINA ORLD CUP

Bulova's signing of Charlie George. The Arsenal star, hardly a player with a cosmopolitan outlook, was never likely to adjust to Hong Kong.

A crowd of 27,000 turned up for his debut. Unfortunately George was not one of them. The disappointed crowd rioted and it was lucky nobody was killed.

The former Arsenal player did eventually arrive and played a few disinterested games before leaving again.

Perhaps this time the clubs have learnt their lesson and will look for good young players in the Scottish or lower English divisions.

Young men still with ambition who can use Hong Kong as a step on and perhaps up in their career rather than 'stars' trying to stretch out their number of pay days.

While they wait for foreigners to bring back the crowds the Hong Kong FA is once again facing a financial crisis.

Unless the forthcoming World Cup games bring in the paying customer they are going to finish the season in the red to add to the $200,000 lost last year.

So far crowds are down 36 per cent on last season and hopes that the situation would improve once the Olympics finished have proved false.

More likely the loss of interest is to do with the poor standard of play.

When Happy Valley met Lia Sun Double Flower in a top of the table clash, the two best sides in the division could do no better than a dull goalless draw and only the most faithful of the 7,579 crowd are likely to be there for the return fixture.

If that wasn't bad enough, See Bee have stunned the soccer community by calling for the resignation of national coach Kwok Ka-ming.

They claim that results during Kwok's six years spell have been disappointing and that the time is right to employ a full time coach.

Kwok combines the job of team coach with working at a local sports centre.

ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

WITH home advantage, Guangdong of China were firm favourites to reach the final of the Asian Club Championship.

They appeared to be heading for a good start when a goal from Liao Yuhua gave them the lead half way through the second half of their opening game with Al Rasheed.

Seconds from the end Salam Maghamis scored an equalizer. On the same night Kazma SC edged out India's Mohan Bagan.

The Chinese hit top form in the second game knocking six goals past the Indian side but Al Rasheed kept in contention by winning the All Arabic tie with Kazma.

As expected Rasheed were able to score a comfortable victory over Mohan which left the Chinese needing a win to go through on goal difference.

They never really looked happy in a scrappy last game and although they attempted to build up some careful attacks they failed to penetrate their opponents' penalty area.

In contrast, the Arabic side spent long periods looking unsettled but could burst forward from midfield and stretch the Chinese defence.

A bad clearance and poor marking led to the first goal and the home side never looked likely to take the two points after that.

Final table

Al Rasheed (Iraq)	3	2	1	0	6	1	5
Guangdong (China)	3	1	2	0	8	2	4
Kazma (Kuwait)	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Mohan (India)	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR inspired by their imported star Fandi Ahmad, had a surprisingly easy victory over Kedah in a repeat of last year's Malaysian Cup.

The glory and the headlines, however, went to Sarawak.

Sarawak is the part of Malaysia that lies on the island of Borneo.

Compared with the rest of the country it is a backwards and remote province and has had little impact on sporting events. This year the team beat one of the favourites, Johore, to reach the last four, the equivalent of say Exeter reaching the FA Cup semi finals.

It certainly took coach Awang Mahyan by surprise. He had promised to jump from the Satok bridge into the Sarawak River if his team won the quarter finals.

Much to the delight of the city residents he kept that promise.

Mahyan is obviously a great character but he became the villain of the semi finals.

Thirty thousand fans had crowded into the Kuching State Stadium and the 300 police on duty had lost any hope of controlling them.

With the situation dangerously volatile, Mahyan raced onto the pitch to argue with the referee.

With the stadium on the edge of rioting the Kedah players left the field and could not be persuaded to return.

The FA certainly had sympathy with them and a reply was ordered, to be staged in the mare orderly setting of Singapore, and there Kedah won 1-0.

It was a year for surprises. Kedah themselves, despite making their second final, are hardly soccer giants while Negri Sembilan beat mighty Pahang.

INDIA

WATCH out for the name of Moolchand Razak. The army goalkeeper, who plays for the Signals team, has been winning rave reviews for his performances in the prestigious DCM cup.

NEW ZEALAND

NEW Zealand football was shaken by the resignation of national team coach Kevin Fallon just 16 days before their World Cup tie with Taiwan.

This followed the last of the Royal sponsorship of the national team worth $300,000 over a three year spell.

Fallon's resignation was apparently due to fears that, without sponsorship, the players would no longer receive their $50 a day allowance.

With the World Cup games imminent, the NZFA had to find a quick replacement and to nobody's surprise they turned to John Adshead, coach of Mount Wellington and the man who guided the country to the 1982 World Cup finals.

Adshead was quoted as saying the task "is a bit like Dunkirk really, turning a mess into something worthwhile."

He insisted that he was only filling the spot in an emergency and did not want the job on a permanent basis.

New Zealand striker Greg Brown was hoping to move up to Australian National League football after a successful spell in the Sydney state league with Melita Eagles.

Last season he hit 21 goals as the club won the top four play offs.

Several national league sides are said to be interested but Eagles' asking price of $30,000 will probably frighten most of them off.

FIJI

THIS year sees the 50th anniversary of the Fiji Football Association and they couldn't have had a better present than the World Cup victory over Australia.

The Australian side came to the island in the middle of their close season but were still expected to

● Continued overleaf

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WORLD SOCCER FOUR PAGE SPECIAL ON ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

AUSSIE EX

AUSTRALIAN soccer, a pillar of strength in the game's developing world, is in a crisis.

The irony is that the crisis is being felt after the country's national team has had perhaps its most successful year ever.

And, as a further paradox, it has been brought about by the very excellence of Australia's current generation of players.

European-based fans may only have noticed that Liverpool's Craig Johnston walked out on the club and returned to Australia at the end of the 1987-88 season in England.

Australians paid more attention to the number of young players who headed in the other direction following Johnston's homecoming.

Eddie Krncevic, Anderlecht's lanky Aussie spearhead is Belgium's leading league scorer.

Frank Farina, 23, perhaps the most promising Australian player to emerge in the last decade, is a settled scorer in the FC Bruges frontline.

Vlado Bozinovski, who broke into the Australia midfield less than seven months ago, is a colleague of Farina at Bruges.

In the past two months Charlie Yankos, Australia's rock-like sweeper and captain, collected a reported £200,000 to sign for PAOK Salonica while striker David Mitchell, an Australian international since 1983, went in a big money transfer from Feyenoord to Chelsea.

Aussies of Greek parentage, Jimmy Patiks (AEK), Lou Hristodoulou and Chris Kalantzis (both Panathinaikos) are virtual pin-up boys in Greece.

There are the lesser known Aussie expatriates, like youngsters Mark Bosnich (Manchester United), Jason Kearton (Everton) and Scott Playle (Glasgow Rangers) still to make the grade with their European clubs while even Luton's David Oldfield is an Aussie and eligible to play for Australia if he so chooses.

And, of course, there is Tony Dorigo, Chelsea's flying left back, although he has shunned his chance to play for Australia by choosing, like Johnston, to represent England instead.

Some 16 Australians currently operate as full time pros in Europe and while that level of expatriation may not alarm Denmark, Sweden or the Republic of Ireland, for Australia it is potentially catastrophic.

Australia's crippling problem is its geographical position, some 20,000 kilometres or 24 hours plus jetlag flying time from Europe.

Australia cannot, for example, emulate Denmark, and fly the players home on Sunday night, have them participate in four or five training sessions before the big game on Wednesday night and have them back with their clubs by Thursday lunchtime.

Anderlecht's Krncevic, a youthful star with Australia before he departed for Europe by buying out his own transfer six years ago, has made it clear that he isn't available to turn out for Australia unless the match is a World Cup tie and is played at a time and venue which minimise any clash with his club commitments.

He wouldn't, for instance, be available for any home matches but may be able to get to Tel Aviv next month (March) for the Aussies' away match against Israel.

His is the classic test case. The Israel v Australia match in Tel Aviv will be played on a Sunday, not a Wednesday as is the custom in Europe.

Looming as double trouble is the fact that Anderlecht are scheduled

Igale Menachem scores for Israel — Australia's World Cup rivals — in their 2-1 friendly win over Malta in Valletta in January.

LAM SWITCH

● *Continued from previous page*

score an easy win.

However, under coach Billy Singh the Fiji side had gone 10 games without defeat and had two wins over New Zealand to their credit.

A goal from substitute Ravuame Madigi was enough to give the home side an historic victory in a robust game that saw the Fiji captain, Pita Dau, receive the yellow card.

While the island celebrated the Australians flew home to an emergency training camp to try to sort out their problems and keep their World Cup hopes alive.

The extra work must have done them some good for they were comfortable winners of the return, taking an aggregate lead before half time and finishing 5-1 winners.

Their goals came from Charlie Yankos (2), Warren Spink, Graham Arnold and Paul Trimbol. The Fiji scorer was Loten Delai.

However, the glory belonged to Fiji and it is worth taking a closer look at football on the isolated island.

Founded in 1938 the Fiji FA has around 140 registered clubs the top eight of who play in the Premier Division.

Below this there is a senior division that plays in three zones with a championship play off.

There is also a well supported Inter-District Competition. Ba, Nadi and Lautoka have been the most successful teams in recent years.

Fiji's international experience is generally limited to Australia, New Zealand and Tahiti although Newcastle United made a visit to the island in 1985.

The national team, who play in white shirts and black shorts, had played Australia on three previous occasions, losing 1-0 in 1977 and 4-1 and 10-0 in the 1981 World Cup Games.

There are two stadiums on the island that can hold more than 20,000, these being the National Stadium in Suva and the Ba Sports Stadium.

HONG KONG

BUSINESSMAN Peter Lam, one of the most influential figures in Hong Kong football, has decided to switch his support from Double Flower to Po Chai Pills, the second division leaders and one of the most exciting teams on the generally sterile Hong Kong scene.

When the chief executive of Lai Sun put his support behind Double Flower he provided the money to sign a squad of experienced players who have been behind this year's success. However, these stars did not sign a contract with the club but directly with Lam, and they will automatically play for him with his new outfit next season.

On the pitch the key match recently has been the clash between leaders Happy Valley and third place south China.

The game ended in a goalless draw but Happy Valley were the penalty winners which, more or less, ends China's league hopes. A crowd of 7,309 turned out for that match which is good going for Hong Kong.

At the other end of the table, Police and HKFC set a new record when they were watched by just 138 fans.

International striker Chan Kwok-fai, whose year has been wrecked by injury, played his second game of the season and scored for Double Flower against Tsuen Wan.

He looked fit and dangerous and could still figure in Hong Kong's World Cup plans.

The Hong Kong Football Association are hoping to stage a Chinese New Year tournament, probably involving China, Japan, and the two Koreas.

The AFC General Secretary has given his support to the idea which looks like going ahead if a sponsor can be found to put up close to a million Hong Kong dollars.

ODUS A PAIN!

from LES MURRAY

to meet FC Bruges in a classic league derby the same day.

Will Krncevic defy Anderlecht, who valued him at around a million pounds when Paris St Germain made a bid last July, and choose to play for the 'Socceroos' on such a day?

And if he doesn't, neither is it likely that the two other Aussie big guns scheduled to play in that same league match, Farina and Bozinovski of Bruges, will go to Tel Aviv.

Yankos, Patikas and Mitchell, all of whom are seen as regular first choice selections for Australia, are likely to have similar important commitments for their clubs.

Thus Australia could be without as many as six of its first choice players for what is shaping up as its most crucial World Cup qualifier.

Of course, there is nothing in the club contracts of any of these players which, legally, disallows them from turning out for their country whenever it needs them.

And you might ask, where is their sense of patriotism?

But it is difficult to be patriotic when it means biting the hand that feeds you.

And these players left Australia in the first place in order to earn four or five times more than they would be capable of in Australia's semi-pro national league.

Contract or no contract, rich and powerful clubs can make things awfully difficult for players when they want to.

Haven't we seen that from the example of Benfica's Brazilian midfielder Valdo who was pressured into declining the chance to play for Brazil in last year's Olympic tournament?

Australia, too, has its own precedents. Jimmy Patikas of AEK Athens, who despite his Greek parentage sees himself a head-to-toe Aussie, yearning only for the Sydney sun and surf while he earns the dollars in drab and polluted Athens, made a defiant stand when Australia called for his services during the Olympic qualifiers a year ago.

He went home, played three matches and helped Australia qualify while his lucrative career in the Greek first division threatened to evaporate.

He was branded a disloyal traitor by the Greek press and the AEK fans who couldn't fathom why he would prefer to play for the "kangaroos" rather than for AEK.

The club stopped his wages and slapped a five month suspension on him, forcing Patikas to sit out the remainder of the 87-88 season.

The Australian Soccer Federation either did nothing or could do nothing to help him and neither did FIFA under whose regulations Patikas was entitled to turn out for his country.

Eventually, and with AEK under new management, Patikas was forgiven and was offered a new contract.

But by the time the Olympic finals came around, last September, he didn't even dare ask AEK for permission to let him go.

Another who paid the penalty for his loyalty to the Australian team is David Mitchell, now of Chelsea.

At first, with his then club Feyenoord out of both Europe and the race for the Dutch league, he had no trouble going home to play two matches in the Olympic qualifiers.

That was last March, when he was more dispensable to his club and long before his splendid start to the new season which saw him score two goals against PSV in the opening league match.

Then the Olympic tournament came around and Mitchell, in order to fulfill a dream, naturally wanted to play.

Feyenoord were now much more reluctant but didn't stand in his way.

Warm

But they got their own back even if in a less theatrical way than AEK did with Patikas.

While Mitchell was in Korea, Feyenoord recruited the veteran striker Jan Houtman in his place and on his return Mitchell was used only to warm the bench.

Now he is with Chelsea, a club which wanted him before the Olympics but backed off when Mitchell expressed his steadfast intention to play in Seoul.

Playing in the English second division instead of scoring goals for one of Europe's glamour clubs, his career has clearly taken a nosedive.

He is unlikely to make the same mistake again.

At 27, with valuable experience at Glasgow Rangers, Eintracht Frankfurt and Feyenoord behind him, Mitchell is in his prime and should be one of the main hopes in Australia's upcoming World Cup qualifiers.

The reality is that the Aussies may have lost him for good.

What is alarming Australians most is the rate at which expatriation is increasing.

At the time of the last World Cup campaign only four Australians of note — Johnston, Dorigo, Mitchell and Krncevic — were based overseas and two of them had ruled out their availability to play for Australia.

Dorigo, born to an Italian immigrant father and English mother, told Australia coach Frank Arok that his ambition saw him playing for England even Italy before he would opt for Australia.

Johnston's case was even better documented. His parentage qualified him to play for three British national teams and he made no bones about the fact that he would prefer to play for any of them before donning the Australian colours.

In the end, he had one game for England B against Malta, an appearance which rendered him permanently ineligible to play for Australia.

The rapid increase in the number of Aussies going abroad is due to two factors: the successes of last year, when Australia drubbed World Champions Argentina 4-1 in a four-nation tournament and went on to beat Yugoslavia to qualify for the quarter finals of the Olympics, which meant Australian players have been discovered to be more able than previously thought by Europeans.

And Australian players can be had cheap, dirt cheap if measured against their ability.

Australian opinion has it — and Australians do get a chance to see most of the world's top teams and players on television — that Frank Farina, for instance, would command a fee of perhaps half a million pounds if he were a Belgian, a Dutchman or an Englishman.

Yet the fact that players like Farina can be had for less than £50,000 a year is enough for a young Australian to turn his back on his country where, even as a star performer, the most he could earn is perhaps £20,000.

The trend has now infested the minds of all young Aussie players who strive to be selected in the national team, talking openly about being discovered by European agents once they do so.

While such a talent drain is something that can be survived by the likes of Brazil and Argentina, or even some of the African countries, for Australia it threatens to stunt the progress domestic soccer has made over the past 30 years.

Australia is no conveyor belt of top footballers. Unlike South America and Africa, soccer down under is still a minority sport, the third most popular winter game behind rugby league and a quirky local invention called Australian Football.

If it keeps losing its best players at this rate, without those players being able to still play for Australia, the chances of any success at national team level will be severely eroded.

And that in a sport-proud country like Australia, where international success is the holiest of all in any sport, translates into a most gloomy prospect.

Full time professionalism is being mentioned as the obvious remedy, for many players go overseas not just for the money but for the taste of having football as a career.

But with domestic club soccer in a sorry state, with the national league attracting around 2,000 average fans per game, that remedy is a long way off.

An alternative now being entertained, and a far more realistic one, is to put national team squad players on full time contract in much the same way the country's top cricketers are under contract to the Australian Cricket Board.

Broke

The money for it is something the Australian Soccer Federation, currently flat broke, will be hard pressed to find.

Of course the most ideal long term solution should come from Zurich, and the head office of FIFA which ought to begin seeing the likely consequences of such a trend, where it relates not just to Australia but to all of soccer's developing countries and indeed South America.

The current FIFA hierarchy is in power largely through the votes of the developing countries.

It has a mandate to protect the game in those countries and to help foster its progress.

In many ways it is already doing it. The world under 19 and under 16 championships, to which developing nations have easier access, are there partly for that reason.

But the talent drain problem, at least to the degree to which it now exists, is a relatively new one, and one about which FIFA has not yet shown any outward concern.

It's time it did.

FIFA has to legislate, in my view, to protect the integrity of the national teams of developing nations increasingly threatened by the talent drain.

Obviously FIFA cannot, and should not, move to simply stop players from leaving their countries and play where more money beckons.

But it can, and should, set down hard and fast rules whereby players who do want to play for their countries, even at the expense of their clubs, are protected from intimidation by those clubs.

The Australian Soccer Federation, seeing the looming possibility of not having its best men available for next month's World Cup qualifiers, recently moved to remedy the problem.

It wanted the dates of the qualifiers changed to July when, with Europe in off season, all the top players would be available not just for Australia but also for its opponents, New Zealand and Israel.

FIFA refused.

One cannot be sure what motivated FIFA to refuse. But the protection and advancement of soccer in Australia, New Zealand and Israel wasn't it.

MEZEY QUITS

Gyorgy Mezey

by BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

HUNGARY'S failure to clear up the latest match-fixing scandal has resulted in Gyorgy Mezey resigning in frustration after a few months in charge.

He has been succeeded by former Budapest Honved manager Bertalan Bicskei as national team supremo until mid-1992.

Bicskei, a goalkeeper for Honved from 1966 to 1974, played once for the national team — a 3-3 home draw against Sweden in a World Cup qualifying group match in 1973 — before moving into coaching.

Tall, upright, a good-looking 44, and championed on these pages two years ago as one who "might flourish under a more committed administration" than what Mezey endured during his first term, Bicskei was appointed after the legendary manager Lajos Baroti, as well as Miklos Temesvari (Debrecen MVSC) and Jozsef Garami (Pecs MSC), were considered.

He was in charge of Hungary's team which won the European under-18 title in Moscow in 1984 when they beat the Soviet Union on penalties in the final; undertook studies at the famous Cologne sports school; but faces a bewildering task to bring a semblance of order to the national team following the departure of Mezey, whose second term in charge turned sour after five matches.

Mezey was appointed in the summer on a six-year contract, keen to introduce a revolutionary training scheme for the whole country, and had his previous back-up staff of assistant coaches Jozsef Tajti, Mihaly Havasi and Sandor Egervari as well as Dr Janos Mohacsi and 'gyuro' Imre Sandor.

He told me: "There was no help, there was no future for us and we feel that we cannot do anything with the Hungarian national team.

"The Hungarian Football Federation is struggling with the Hungarian Sports Ministry because the football federation will soon be independent from the sports ministry.

"The present football leaders will be in their posts to the end of March or April, after the next World Cup group qualification match. It is a stop-gap measure.

"They should have solved this match-fixing scandal as soon as possible but they did not because, as I feel, they don't know what to do. So they have got no idea of how to solve it.

"We had hoped that the new federation would come in at the end of last year because in this new federation, some leaders would have supported us.

"Also, we thought that we had to know something about the players who are playing abroad and who are the important ones of the team.

"We could not travel abroad to their clubs to confirm their eligibility and availability. So I couldn't see anything that would help me in the job."

One of the three-man leadership of the national federation, Laszlo Tisza from the National Savings Bank, resigned earlier in the season, leaving Miklos Varga, the Minister for the Environment and Water Supply, and Tibor Vadasz, a General in the Hungarian army.

Mezey said: "I was the oldest, most experienced man working for the Hungarian federation.

"I expected them to be interested in how to solve this problem. But they did not help me because they felt that they were in charge.

"Bertalan is a very, very nice guy and a very good coach. I hope he can solve the situation. I congratulated him and I said to him I would give him any help I can that he might like.

"I am retired, there is no job for me. But I hope that if the new federation can be found in April, I can join it again. But not as manager of the national team.

"Perhaps they can find me another job to help Hungarian football. If not, then I think I will have to go abroad again."

He began with a scoreless draw against traditional border rivals Austria in Linz in late August. The previous season ended with Hungary 4-0 losers to the same country in Laszlo Balint's last match in charge.

Combined

For the opening World Cup qualifying group match at home to Northern Ireland, he could call upon six foreign-based players — Antal Nagy, for his 32nd appearance and back after 18' months out of contention; Laszlo Dajka (25th match), also recalled for the Austria game after last playing in the 1986 World Cup Finals; Imre Garaba (70th appearance); Gyorgy Bognar (21st); Lajos Detari (33rd) and Istvan Vincze, whose 15th appearance, as an 85th minute substitute, ended triumphantly with his winning goal.

The 13 players used in that match had a combined total of 350 national team appearances before it.

The 13 fielded in the 2-2 draw in Malta in December, Mezey's last selection, totalled a mere 140.

Vincze was the only foreign-based player able to play, Bognar was injured and the others, through their implication in the latest and previous match-fixing scandals, were ruled out without having been punished.

Essentially, the Hungarian authorities — who are still investigating matches played three years ago — have a problem once players who have meddled in match-fixing money at home are sold abroad.

Their playing rights are also sold and they are no longer under the jurisdiction of the domestic authorities.

Their need, therefore, is to catch players before they depart.

One case involves Antal Nagy, formerly of Honved and now with Swiss second division club Yverndon, who was whistled derisively during the Northern Ireland match for "suspended" penalties hanging over him from the past.

Another case is that of Jozsef Fitos, who had played in the first six internationals of the year but was not chosen once by Mezey.

He was one of half-a-dozen Honved players withdrawn from matches in the autumn championship games — which ended with last season's champions on 29 points and understandably trailing half- time leaders MTK-VM (36 points) and Ferencvaros (32).

Fitos signed a statement admitting that he had received money from match-fixing and, a week before his contract with Greek club Panathinaikos was due to start on December 1, travelled to Athens.

The Hungarian police would probably have only fined him and then let him travel but they forgot to withdraw his tourist passport; only his service (official) one, the property of his club, was confiscated.

The public, increasingly incensed by the continuing failure to clean up the game, wrote letters to newspapers, jammed radio phone-in programmes, and want fair punishment for the big players and not just the 'little fish'.

One chairman, Bekescsaba chief Vince Annus, is the first-ever such rank of official to be implicated among the 42 suspects who await their fate.

Debutant players against Greece in a friendly in November, when Vincze was again the only foreign-based player, were Videoton pair, right-back Zsolt Mariasi (aged 21) and Zoltan Csucsanszy (23) as well as Csaba Bordas, a 20-year-old central defender from Raba ETO Gyor, 24-year-old winger Gabor Balogh (Vac), Zsolt Petry (goalkeeper, Videoton, 22) and Pal Fischer (midfielder, Ferencvaros, 22).

Greece, who play England in Athens this month, also had a virtual B selection and the plethora of substitutions devalued the encounter still further, Greece winning 3-0.

For the Malta match, Mezey gave Csucsanszy and Balogh their second games, Razsa Kehesi (MTK-VM) his third and recalled thought-to-be-forgotten Honved defenders Laszlo Diszti and Jozsef Csuhay, the latter having last appeared more than a year previously against Scotland in a friendly.

It was the last straw, therefore, that his side — even against one as modest as Malta — should concede a last-minute goal and draw.

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The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

HORROR of horrors; or miracle of miracles! Enzo Bearzot and Italo Allodi are said to have embraced and made it up; of all places at Coverciano, the Federal Technical Centre, just outside Florence, which Bearzot refused to visit all the time Allodi, Mr Fix It, was in charge of it, let alone bring his Italian squads there for pre-match training, as had previously been the practice.

Apparently, honest, decent Bearzot ran into wily old Allodi, friend of our old referee-fixing acquaintance Dezso Solti in the high old Inter and Juventus days (patron, should we say?) when a reunion of managers took place there. A reunion, by the way, snubbed as futile by most leading club managers.

Bearzot, who had detested and snubbed Allodi since they were both involved with Italy's 1974 World Cup team in West Germany, impulsively embraced Allodi. Heaven alone knows why.

The 1974 World Cup was the one in which the Italians were accused of trying to bribe the Poles. For years, Bearzot was anxious to get to the bottom of that.

Worry

Allodi, general team manager then, was asked to draw up a plan for Coverciano.

"Don't worry," the late Artemio Franchi, then president of UEFA and the Italian FA, took me aside to tell me in Paris on the occasion of that very Leeds-Bayern Munich Euro Final.

"It doesn't mean we'll adopt the plan!"

Not only did they do that, they appointed Allodi. Even during the 1982 World Cup, which Italy won, the Tuscan manager Fascetti viciously attacked Bearzot in a seminar at Coverciano.

Allodi's doing, Bearzot believed. Why the rapprochement? If there is one. . . .

STAYIN

IN a December issue of the *Sunday Times*, I remarked that my Yuletide reading would be "Wimbledon's Tunnel Tips" and "Whitewash your club the Millwall way".

This brought an outraged letter from a gentle reader who has been supporting Millwall for 55 years but I stay unrepentant.

Millwall, as a club, have been trying wonderfully hard to change. Millwall, as a club, have been traduced in the past — not least over the Luton fracas when tough eggs poured into Luton from all over London, the North, South, East and West — but enough is enough. The pudding must not be over-egged.

Mr Mead, the Millwall vice-chairman, is a charming, pleasant, dedicated man who runs a successful advertising agency. But the wily ways of advertising, however persuasive, are not always those best suited to promoting football and its clubs, especially in such delicate

Queens Park Rangers' new player/manager Trevor Francis . . . a shining performance.

THERE AFTER

HAVE you noticed how astonishingly well the over-thirties are doing on the field at the moment, not only in Britain but all over the continent?

Recently, I watched Trevor Francis, who will soon be 35, give a shining performance among the flying Wimbledon boots at Plough Lane.

Eventually, and very appropriately, his was the left wing corner kick from which Mark Falco headed the only goal of this Littlewoods Cup game.

Afterwards, the Wimbledon manager Bobby Gould paid very generous tribute to him, admiring not only his technique and creative flair but the way that he and experienced players like him found space, carefully going not where the ball was but where it wasn't, having sensed that it would come to them.

Scarcely had the game finished when Francis, somewhat controversially, was named player-manager of Queens Park Rangers by the new, 24-year-old chairman.

When I spoke to him the following evening, he told me he felt he was playing as well as he had ever done; people simply hadn't taken the trouble to hop on a plane to look at him during those five years he was out in Italy with Sampdoria and Atalanta.

In every game, he told me with the enthusiasm of a teenager, he wanted to be the best player on the field. He certainly succeeded that evening at Plough Lane.

A couple of weeks afterwards, Francis was providing the inter-round summaries for the ITV televised commentary of Norwich City versus West Ham United. He picked out, as the best player of the first-half, his former Genoese neighbour and Sampdoria team-mate Liam Brady, who will be 33 in early '89.

Francis praised Brady for the way he found time and space which is, of course, the key to it all.

Elsewhere, look at the achievements of three 33-year-olds of renown — Safet Susic, Sandro Altobelli and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

Susic's comeback to international football for Yugoslavia against France in Belgrade, after years of absence, was a minor miracle and certainly a great tribute, not only to him but to the man who recalled him, team manager Ivica Osim.

In the middle of the previous season, Susic had had the deeply humiliating experience of being banished into the Paris Saint Germain reserves by Gerard Houllier, which meant performing in Division Three matches on the bleak little grounds of the Paris suburbs.

It looked odds on that Susic's career with the Parisian club was at an end, let alone his career in international football.

G UNREPENTANT...

circumstances.

To beguile and astonish sports editors by inviting them out to lunch, where most clubs barely regard them as even being below the salt, can backfire.

Those bedazzled sports editors and their minions can take just a little too much on board.

Thus, while Millwall are trying so admirably hard, they themselves would surely be the first to admit that there is a hell of a long way to go.

Promoting articles which flatly state that there was "no riot" among Millwall fans on the terraces at Arsenal for that Cup tie last season, despite what was said in the press, just won't do at all.

There was indeed a riot; and my own Deep Throat found himself among the Millwall fans on the South Bank while it ensued. He insists he has seen many worse, points out that the 'aggro' was directed against the police rather than the opposing fans and confesses with some puzzlement that he doesn't know to this day what began it.

Millwall fans attacked policemen; one huge fan came rushing down the terraces, my informant recalls, to make a tremendous assault on an individual copper.

Those policemen who stood in a grim, black line along the bottom of the South Bank were bombarded with coins which, says my Deep Throat, led to one moment of arcane Cockney humour. "Move about," cried a Millwall fan. "Make it 'ard for us!"

Persuasive

It was Millwall's misfortune that some of their most persuasive propaganda should appear within days of their players being accused on the front page of *The Sun* of misdemeanours at a Southampton area hotel, Botley Grange; charges which have led Millwall to bring a libel action against the newspaper, putting the matter *sub judice*.

Moreover, with exquisite timing, the propaganda was almost concurrent with what was always likely to be a torrid, if not horrid, affair; the league match between Millwall and West Ham at the Den.

Just as wooden seats are a living temptation to any red- blooded self-respecting supporter of Leeds United (hooligan variety), something to be broken up and hurled at Paris policemen, so it was unwise to distribute key rings that day to the Millwall fans.

It was only too tempting to use them, at the end, as missiles against a West Ham team which had just played Millwall off the park.

So, I say again to the Millwall club: good luck to your efforts, more power to your persuasion but please, please use it judiciously when it comes to dealing with the Press.

There can always be a backlash and I — one of the very few journalists to welcome your belated rise to the First Division — am presently part of it.

ON and on goes the wrangling over that damned identity card bill.

A great many silly and irrelevant things are being said, a great many changes seem likely to be made.

One of the few truly sensible suggestions has been to conduct controlled experiments at certain clubs, something I have been advocating for ages.

Why plunge ahead with so half-baked and ill-considered a scheme when it is possible to have a good, hard look at it, and objectively, to assess its faults and virtues?

Or could this be precisely why the Government and the ineffable Mr Colin Moynihan have not pronounced in its favour?

Mr Moynihan, indeed, distinguished himself again with his Black Propaganda campaign, making ludicrous use of the death of an unfortunate youth at Shrewsbury, two full days after the police confirmed that he was a sufferer from asthma and that they would not be treating it as manslaughter.

This careless kind of statement gravely discredits Mr Moynihan's campaign.

The fashion of late has been to ridicule the idea that identity cards and their production at the turnstiles would lead to delays.

What none of those who argue thus seem to have taken on board is that, however quickly a card can let you in, the delay will be caused above all by those whose cards, for one reason or another, does NOT let them in.

That way, chaos lies. Again, a controlled experiment could tell us much about this problem.

That most violence takes place now outside the stadiums, and even well away from them, in tubes, city centres, trains, railway stations, makes apprehension of thugs who run riot when there may be hundreds of them almost impossible and surely random; these are questions the foolish proponents of the cards have ignored.

'S LIFE THIRTY!

"SPAIN'S manager Luis Suarez said his side must try to outflank the Irish. His first-choice striker Sanchez of Real Madrid is injured — to Bingham's relief ...."

Cynthia Bateman, The Guardian, December 21, 1988

Preview of Spain versus Northern Ireland

Not injured, dear lady: just Mexican.

Well, it wasn't. Houllier left, Tomislav Ivic came from Porto to take over, Susic found himself being used in a more acceptable role and blossomed at once.

His attacking flair in midfield made him again a force in the French First Division and Osim took the gamble of recalling him.

How abundantly it paid! With Houllier, by an irony, sitting on the bench for France as assistant manager to Platini, Susic took the French defence to the cleaners with his clever passing and set-piece free-kicks.

Of the three Yugoslav goals, he scored one and made the other two. At 33.

In West Germany last summer, the Italian attack never looked as good as it did when Sandro "The Big Pin" Altobelli came on as substitute.

He scored one excellent goal and helped to make at least another. True, he could not last the ninety minutes but it was easy to remember how he had been just about the best Italian player in their disappointing exhibitions in the previous World Cup in Mexico.

Juventus were clearly convinced by him. Remembering, no doubt, how well the veteran centre-forward Roberto Boninsegna had done for them when they salvaged him from Inter, they gladly signed Altobelli when Inter decided last summer that they had no more use for him.

He had scored nearly 250 goals for them in a dazzling career. Altobelli was at first more or less resigned to being on the bench, just as he had been in West Germany.

But his hopes rose when Juve signed Zavarov (recently and mischievously criticised by "Avvocato" Agnelli, just as Zibi Boniek used to be).

It meant one foreigner had to go and Spillone was pretty sure it would be Ian Rush.

"The Big Pin" was convinced that it would not be Michael Laudrup, since the Dane was too well thought of by the club president Giampiero Boniperti.

Of course, the obduracy of Laudrup's father-cum-agent Finn Laudrup, an ex-Danish international, had much to do with what happened as well.

As we know, Rush went and "The Big Pin" (Spillone) won a first team place, scoring important goals both in the Championship and in the UEFA Cup. His goals total in European football is now an astonishing 39!

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge probably shouldn't have played in either of the last two World Cups for West Germany, given his physical condition. But his enormous prestige and influence kept him a place, even though he is said nearly to have come to blows with an outraged Uwe Stielike in the dressing room in Madrid at half- time in the 1982 Final.

Inter got rid of him, too, and he found his way to Geneva and the Servette club. This season, he played the first three games as libero then, finding that at long last his tendon trouble had cleared up, he resumed his position up front. And with what success!

Eighteen goals in 19 games — three of them, as we know, as sweeper — with no fewer than three goals and three assists in a 6-1 win in Lugano!

So Servette, only just, scraped into the subsequent play-offs. Rummenigge is confident they'll do well. He says his tendinitis is now a thing of the past and he is at long last able to function at 100 per cent.

What lessons can we derive from all this? Chiefly, I think, that there is still very much a place in our hectic, frantic modern football for the really gifted veteran player.

Si la jeunesse savait, si la vieillesse pouvait, say the French: if the young knew, if the old only could!

The conventional wisdom has it that only those with pace can survive today. A theory that has worked against the likes of Nigel Clough of Nottingham Forest.

Recently, the inimitable England manager Bobby Robson was singing his praises after watching a game at Nottingham which suggested that, after the statutory two years of agonising reappraisal, Clough might eventually wear an England shirt — and not an under-21 shirt.

But the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. While carefully emphasising that he meant no disrespect to Clough senior, Nigel's manager, Robson suggested Nigel might do better in midfield, thereby missing the point.

The whole, great value of Nigel Clough is precisely that, while he may not be fast of foot, he has the speed of thought and the superlative technique to remain calm at the heart of the storm, to keep his head when all about him are losing theirs.

True, you have to build an attack around him. But why ever not, given his gifts?

Nearly 40 years ago, I remember Cliff Bastin, the old Arsenal and England hero, telling me of a conversation he had had with a fellow Arsenal and England left winger, Pat Beasley.

An Arsenal reserve in the 30s, Beasley at that time was still successfully playing left-half for Fulham in the Second Division. There was nothing to it, he said. The pace might be fast but for an experienced player, it was money for jam.

Certainly, a striker without the initial pace may find himself in some difficulty, though for quite a time, Clive Allen, when Spurs played a five-man midfield behind him, seemed to find it no disadvantage.

But as his ex-QPR manager Jim Smith says of Trevor Francis, he may have lost some of his electric acceleration but by way of compensation, he has more stamina; more strength to make the longer, sustained runs; and, of course, hugely more experience to put to good use.

SOVIET UNION

WHAT A DEBUT!

SERGEI BALTACHA made a sensational debut for Ipswich in the English second division, scoring the first of their goals in a 5-1 win over Stoke.

The size of the fee, reportedly £150,000 for an 18-month contract, was less of an issue than when Zavarov moved to Italy but a clause can be invoked to modify terms should the Suffolk side be promoted.

Baltacha will receive from the Soviet Union Ministry a salary comparable to Dasayev's in Spain but Ipswich have to provide accommodation, food, a car as well as English language lessons and medical care.

Vasily Ratz also expects to be on the move, to Spain. Initially manager Valeri Lobanovsky was not inclined to lose the services of his best midfielder . . . or, rather, the one he seems to prefer.

Prefer

However, money appears to have talked and the Russians can expect a high fee for Ratz.

Vladimir Bessanov may also be transferred abroad. Sweden was a possibility for Bessanov but he would prefer Switzerland.

Michailov could be en route for Sweden but nothing has been confirmed for either Kiev's reserve goalkeeper or for Igor Belanov, who is attracting French interest.

While all these permutations were being considered, Lobanovsky was in Austria for the Linz indoor tournament to which Dynamo Kiev had been invited.

As soon as it ended, Lobanovsky returned to Moscow to discuss the status of the new 'Football Union'.

It turned out to be a contest between the reformers and the bureaucrats.

Prior to the conference, Goskomsport, the Sport Ministry's agency, published draft proposals.

However, these contained nothing new and provoked massive correspondence in the Press with protests that nobody was being fooled by the Nomenklature getting in the first blow for retention of the status quo in the guise of perestroika!

The civil servants are anxious to maintain their fingers in the sports pie but their retrograde attitudes have been publicly criticised in 'Komsomolskaya Pravda' and they look unlikely to get away with it in the current climate of reform.

Their fear is, of course, that if football 'does its own thing' within a new and independent, self-financing structure, all the other sports will seek to follow and there will be nothing for the sports officials in the Ministry to do.

Against this background, Mr Koloskov, the man in the Ministry, opened the conference and for half an hour recited the Soviet successes in recent times but spent only a few minutes outlining a plan for the 'Football Union' under the Sports Ministry.

The first to go into bat for the reformers was Nikolai Starostin. the grand old man of Russian football, a co-founder of Sopartak in the 1930's now aged 86.

He was followed by Lobanovsky, a firm protagonist of federalism who said there was so little in Koloskov's plan that he could not see what there was to discuss.

The Kiev soccer mafia then distributed its paper but there was stalemate between the two factions and the sole outcome was agreement to the creation of a union, though not now.

An odd feature of the gathering was that five First Division clubs were not represented but it was clear there was no support for the Ministry's plan.

Clubs, regional FA officials, the Dynamo organisation, Lobanovsky, Starostin, Simonian and the people who know about football are not going to be put off.

The revolution continues . . .

NEW ARRIVALS. . . SERGEI BALTACHA and wife Olga.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Semi-finals — first legs
Iwuanyanwu Nationale (Nigeria) 4 (Augustine Eke 10, Obi 19, 43, Ukaegbu 30)
Royal Armed Forces (Morocco) 1 (Laghirisi 50)

Entente Setif (Algeria) 2 (Rahmani 16, Gharib 78)
Al Ahly (Egypt) 0

Semi-finals — second legs
Royal Armed Forces 4 (Haidamou 10, Aberrazak Khairi 17, 87, Abdelsalam Laghrissi 44)
Iwuanyanwu Nationale 1 (Toyin Ayinla 44 pen)
Aggregate: 5-5. Iwuanyanwu Nationale won 5-3 on pens

Al Ahly 2 (Allah Mayhoub 50, Rabih Yassine 53)
Entente Setif 0
Aggregate: 2-2. Entente Setif won 4-2 on pens

Final — first leg
Iwuanyanwu Nationale 1 (Andrew Uwe 19)
Entente Setif 0

Final — second leg
Entente Setif 4 (Zorgane 50, Benjaballah 53, 88, Augustine Eke og 87)
Iwuanyanwu Nationale 0
Entente Setif won 4-1 on aggregate

ENTE TRIU AFRI

AN ALGERIAN Second Division club are the new champions of Africa after overcoming the fancied Nigerian club Iwuanyanwu Nationale in the final of the 1988 African Champions Cup.

Entente Setif, Algerian champions in 1986/87 but relegated the next year, comprehensively beat the Nigerian League and Cup 'double' winners 4-1 on aggregate to become only the second club from the North African country to win the continent's top club prize.

The victory came on top of defeat for another Nigerian club, Ranchers Bees, in the final of the African Cup Winners' Cup, won by Tunisian side Club Athletique Bizerte.

In that final, CA Bizerte won 1-0 on aggregate to record a first-ever triumph for Tunisia in African club competition.

Setif, who had ended the four-year winning streak of Egyptian giants Al Ahly in the semi-finals, ran their West African rivals ragged in the second leg in Setif, after losing the first leg by a single goal in the Nigerian provincial town of Owerri.

Their fairytale win came courtesy of two goals from ace striker Benjaballah, his fourth and fifth of the tournament, and one from Zorgane, who opened the second leg scoring in the 50th minute to level up the aggregate scoreline.

Benjaballah put Setif ahead within three minutes and then, to add salt to their wounds, Iwuanyanwu's Augustine Eke conceded an own goal in the 87th minute.

Benjaballah netted the fourth seconds later to complete a famous victory.

The Algerian club's triumph is made more impressive by the fact that they had a tough path to the final, having to overcome Tunisia's Etoile Sahel, the erratic Gabonese army team FC 105 Libreville and holders Al Ahly.

Their defence of their title should prove a little easier this year as they are to face the winners of the preliminary round tie between the representatives of Sierre Leone and Guinea Bissau in the first round proper, which is played next month.

Iwuanyanwu's defeat added further gloom to the loss of

TE SETIF IPH IN AN CUP

from MARK GLEESON

compatriots Ranchers Bees in the Cup Winners' Cup final.

Bees were held to a goalless draw at home in Ibadan in the first leg of the final and then lost 1-0 in the return in Tunis.

CA Bizerte's captain Hamada Bendoulet fittingly scored the only goal, latching onto a loose ball and lobbing it over the opposing goalkeeper Daniel Abdullahi from some 15 metres out in the 11th minute.

Some 50,000 supporters at Tunis' Menzah stadium were there to watch Bizerte finally bring glory to Tunisian club football, starved of any international honour before.

In 1987, Tunis-based Esperance reached the final of the same tournament, but were beaten by Kenyan club Gor Mahia.

Next month CA Bizerte begin their defence of the title with a first round tie against Guinean Cup winners Caiman de Kamsar.

Nigeria made it a hat-trick of final losses when New Nigerian Bank were beaten on the away goals rule in the final of the West African Football Union Cup.

A 1-0 home win in the second leg by Guinean champions Asfag tied the aggregate score at 2-2 and confined the bank side to runners-up spot.

AS AFRICAN nations faced the new-style group qualifying format for the World Cup finals in Italy in 1990, intensive preparations and management changes took place at the end of the year.

Cameroon, the 1988 African Nations Cup winners and introducing new Soviet boss Valeri Nepomniacoi, were shocked at home by Gabon in the final of the six-nation UDEAC Cup.

Gabon won the tournament with a 1-0 win after earlier topping the hosts in Group A. The two countries are also paired in Group Three of the World Cup qualifiers.

In the preliminaries, Gabon held Cameroon, who had brought home their vacationing European-based professionals, to a goalless draw and then pipped them to top spot in the group on goal difference.

Congo were easy winners in Group B, but were beaten 2-0 by Cameroon in the semi-finals. Gabon had to rely on a penalty shoot-out at the end of their final to beat off the challenge of the Central African Republic.

MOROCCO, who were the continent's representatives in Mexico three years ago, warmed up by firing two blanks, drawing 0-0 with Egypt and Soviet champions Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk.

Group Four rivals Zambia held Kenya to a goalless draw in a friendly in Nairobi to celebrate the country's 25th anniversary of independence.

Egypt, who are drawn with Kenya, Malawi and Liberia in Group Two, travelled to Kuwait for a 2-2 draw, while Ivory Coast, who play Algeria, Libya and Zimbabwe in Group One, replaced coach Yeo Martial with 55-year-old Yugoslav Rade Ognianovic.

Ivorian sports officials have also taken away their players' monthly US $1,000 salaries, putting them on win bonuses only.

AFRICAN CUP WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals — first legs
Inter Club (Congo) 1 (Guy-Albert Moukakounou 18 pen)
Ranchers Bees (Nigeria) 0

Diamant Yaounde (Cameroon) 1 (Bertrand Mbango 57)
CA Bizerte (Tunisia) 0

Semi-finals — second legs
Ranchers Bees 2 (Mohammed Kabiru 29, Balarabe 48)
Inter Club 0
Ranchers Bees won 2-1 on aggregate

CA Bizerte 3 (Mohsen Gharbi 69 pen, Ahmed Souissi 77 pen, Ali M'Sarrey 87) Diamant Yaounde 0
CA Bizerte won 3-1 on aggregate

Final — first leg
Ranchers Bees 0
CA Bizerte 0

Final — second leg
CA Bizerte 1 (Hamada Bendoulet 11)
Ranchers Bees 0
CA Bizerte won 1-0 on aggregate

Stefan Pettersson (left) holds off Dundee United's David Narey while helping IFK Gothenburg win the 1987 UEFA Cup.

AJAX STAR PETTERSSON

HOLLAND . . . by SIMON KUPER

SIX months ago, no-one in Holland had heard of Stefan Pettersson — now he is the star of a resurgent Ajax Amsterdam.

"Pettersson is the striker of the future," one Dutch professional said.

Pettersson, 26, joined Ajax from IFK Gothenburg in August. They paid a club record fee of £1 million for the Swedish international, who worked part-time as a bank clerk in Gothenburg.

Pettersson had to live up to high expectations. Ajax's three previous centre forwards had been Wim Kieft, Marco Van Basten and Johnny Bosman.

But the Swede has made Ajax fans forget them all.

Even at the start of the season when Ajax were playing worse than ever before, Pettersson showed his class.

He is intelligent, very mobile, almost impossible to shift off the ball and, although he is short, can outjump almost anyone.

In match after match, he was the only Ajax player who played like an Ajax player.

Ten of the team flopped against Sporting Lisbon in the away leg of the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Pettersson was the exception, scoring his team's two goals from chances that he had created himself. It was entirely thanks to him that Ajax lost only 4-2.

But scoring is not Pettersson's speciality. He has just seven goals in 17 league matches — Van Basten used to score 30 a season.

"I don't see myself as a real goalgetter," says Pettersson.

He doesn't need to be. As Ajax's assistant manager Louis Van Gaal says: "Even when he doesn't score, he's of great value to us.

"In fact, he's the most important man in the team. You can always pass to him — his greatest strength is that he creates space."

Ajax's midfielders are profiting from that space. Central midfielder Dennis Bergkamp, in and out of the side before Pettersson arrived, has scored nine goals in the last nine matches.

Not surprisingly, Bergkamp is delighted with Pettersson.

"He's amazingly strong," he says. "He never loses the ball. It doesn't even matter how high you pass it to him.

"Other strikers finish off an attack but Pettersson is best at combinations. He makes sure that the ball keeps moving.

"He's always in the right place. He really suits Ajax perfectly."

Remember that Dutch footballers are generally very critical of their team-mates!

Ajax can't do without Pettersson. He deserves a lot of the credit for the club's 19 points from their last ten matches.

Once he and Ajax's Swedish defender Peter Larsson had to play for their country in Albania on a Saturday. Ajax had a league match the next day.

The club sent a private plane to fetch the two immediately after their international and the following day, they both played for Ajax.

Pettersson has adjusted with ease to life and football abroad. Swedish footballers, unlike their British colleagues, tend to learn new languages, new ways of life and new styles of football rapidly. The British get homesick.

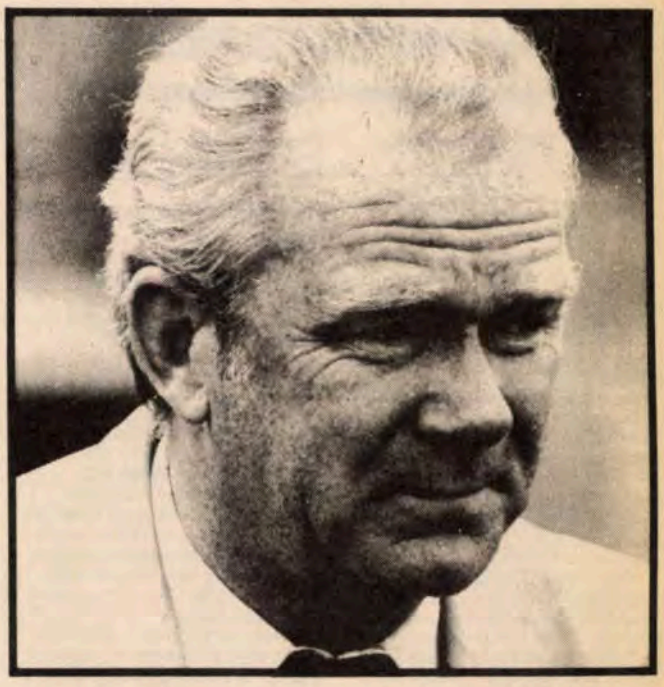
Pettersson and Larsson are not better footballers than Ian Rush and Mark Hughes — but they do travel better.

Pettersson impressed against England in the World Cup qualifier in October. And he'll probably give Terry Butcher a very hard time when England visit Sweden.

SIMON KUPER

BELANOV CURSE? NO, NOT REALLY!

THE 1988 season was outstanding for Soviet Soccer. The national selections were runners-up in the European Championship and triumphant at the Olympic Games. Directing operations were VALERI LOBANOVSKY (below) and NIKITA SIMONYAN — both featured here in exclusive interviews with GREGOR TASSIE.



GT — Recently, Michel Platini said in an interview that your team was just unlucky to lose to the Dutch in the Euro 88 Final and that the Soviets created as many chances as Holland. What do you think of such an opinion?

VL — The passions of those games have long since gone yet the satisfaction of gaining second place still doesn't extinguish one's disappointment at the missed chances in that final game. Jacques Thibert wrote in "France Football" that the USSR lost "because of the curse hanging over Belanov". At the time, I could share his opinion. Now one looks at the game more calmly.

We were no worse than the Dutch in a technical sense or in preparation for the highly testing circumstances of the Final. But the gift of vision and skill of Van Basten (I understand World Soccer have judged him the best world player) seemed above our more rational and ordinary human aspirations to win the Final.

It's a very difficult problem for a coach, how to get the top players to reach their highest peaks of performance in such a Final. With the most fantastic dreams, one has still to create the most favourable conditions so a player can reveal his full talents.

There exist strict limits to what may be achieved with financial limitations, there also exist psychological barriers. Sometimes, due to a restriction in facilities available to us, this has a negative effect on the player's morale . . .

I'll try to explain in more detail. A popular club doesn't live on an island. Trips to special training camps, in some way, help the players and the team socially.

Without such exclusion we wouldn't have achieved such success on the field, but there has to come a time when the players have to be protected and have certain guarantees as professional sportsmen.

The need for this is made even more so because of the big changes happening in the country. These improvements would act as levers to get the best out of the players.

Yet I don't want to give this as an excuse as to why that penalty wasn't scored, but simply that if the Soviet Union is to perform and compete for the World Cup, then our players must have the equal opportunities open to the top professionals in the West.

This is my conclusion from the European Championships: that we cannot slacken our efforts to introduce real professionalism as soon as possible.

In sports preparation we are no worse than the West yet in the motivation for a result, we are well behind them.

GT — Name the highlights of this season.

VL — I can't forget our two matches against Holland. As you can understand, I kicked every ball mentally in those games, yet as a coach, I was entranced also by the football played.

Of course, I was exceptionally disappointed. Someone said to me: "Why get hysterical with such great football played?"

I am deeply grateful to all our players and those of the opposition for their play. I was happy to play my own part in it too, albeit from the bench.

GT — What problems have affected your work this season?

VL — Our fans had to wait 32 years for victory in the Olympic football tournament yet the creation of this separate Olympic team has had a negative effect on our preparations for the next World Cup.

What is the status of the Olympic team when we couldn't even call their players up for training sessions?

There has been a breach in the natural development of players from one team to the other. We were particularly limited in our selections for the European Championships by a restriction to older, experienced veterans, so very few younger players who may play in the World Cup Finals will not have the experience of taking part in such a big tournament.

It's really a nightmare for a coach to have these restrictions imposed in the case of the Olympic squad. It is silly that the sports authorities saw the Olympics as the most important.

Of course, football in this competition doesn't have the significance as gymnastics or swimming does.

One can't avoid the basic fact that there is a distinct breakdown in our sports network on this. We have a whole new batch of young, talented players and yet their experience of major international tournaments is limited to playing against unsatisfactory amateur and semi-amateur national teams.

Their real understanding of what is expected of them in 18 months time in Italy, they will only know from video tapes. It's another reason for the need for complete autonomy in Soviet sport for football.

GT — Can you say something about your plans for next season?

VL — Next year puts before us a very important task: to qualify for the World Cup.

At present, we are topping the group but we have several difficult away games to play against the GDR, Austria and against Turkey, who have just managed a sensational victory over the East Germans.

The players dispersed to their families after Christmas but on January 30, we had a session in Moscow to check on their fitness.

Earlier this month, we flew off to Milan where we've been using the superb Inter Milan sports base for training. We then go to Sofia for our first match of 1989 against Bulgaria.

GT — The Soviet national team has begun a new cycle of qualifying matches for the next World Cup. What distinguishes its new tasks from those of the squad for this year's European Championships?

VL — The tasks of a methodical character have changed. Previously, as you know, there were limitations as to picking only veterans, but now we can start introducing younger talent. Yet we're not going to go overboard and make rash adventures. It's going to be a very careful selection process.

GT — Will there be changes in the squad?

VL — It's difficult to say, it all depends on the physical fitness of players, young and old.

We intend getting together the best 35 players initially and we'll check on their progress at their clubs throughout these months. From this, we'll take 22 players with us to Milan in February.

GT — As Dynamo Kiev remain the base team for the Soviet Union, what specific plans are laid for your club side?

VL — Kiev's preparations for the new season are a little unusual. In December, they had some 10 days rest, then went to Linz in Austria for a five-a-side tournament.

After returning home, there was a short rest for the New Year holidays and in January, we went to our training camp in West Germany for some three weeks. As you know, we trained during the European Championships there.

GT — Will there be any big changes in the club side in the new season?

VL — There are many talented young players in our reserve team, such as Yuran, Zaetz, Matveev, Nikiforov and Bezenar.

But this month, our national youth side is going to Saudi Arabia for the World Cup. How many of our boys will go there is still not clear obviously, so there are still many unresolved questions regarding our team selections next year.

Many of our experienced players have been offered contracts with Western clubs, so no-one knows yet how many will leave Kiev

But the players themselves will be free to make their own choice, the only exception being those who we still need here.

NIKITA PAVLOVICH SIMONYAN has been the manager of the Soviet Union's international squad since 1986. His responsibility is as supremo to all ten Soviet international selects from the full national team down to the youth side. As a football coach he took Moscow Spartak and Ararat Yerevan to league and cup success and also managed Odessa Chernomoretz and the USSR team in the late 1970's.

As a player he scored 350 goals as the Moscow Spartak centre forward during the forties and fifties and won 23 caps (12 goals) for the USSR Select, winning the Olympic gold in 1956 in Melbourne.

WHEN did you start playing football and were you coached?

I was born in the Abkhazian town of Sukhumi on the Black Sea in 1926 and I can remember playing with other boys on street-corners when very young.

In those days it was very difficult to get hold of proper football boots so we often played in whatever shoes we had. We made a ball from old rags, anything we could kick about. My first coach was Shota Luschinadze who was coach for the local team Dinamo.

SO you began your career with Dinamo Sukhumi before leaving for Moscow?

It was Dinamo who organized the youth soccer in the town so through Luschinadze I started playing for them in the local championship. At the end of the 1945 season, the Moscow club 'Wings of the Soviets' came to play two friendlies with our Dinamo side and we beat them in both games by 3-1 and 3-0.

As I managed to score all six goals they invited me at once to come to Moscow, which I did, and from 1946 I began my career with them.

HOW did you settle into the team?

It was exceptionally difficult at first to make the transition from playing in lowly divisions to the top division. The team had a great player in Piotr Dementjev, an inside-right, and he helped me a lot both on and off the field.

The club were struggling, many of the players had already played their best before the war and in 1948, Wings finished bottom and the club was disbanded.

I was invited to play for Spartak and began playing for them in 1949.

HOW did Moscow Spartak play in those days?

Almost all the teams from the fifties played a double-V system and, you know, we had some very good teams in those days, especially Spartak, Dinamo and CSKA, who were all based in Moscow.

We had some great players in our Spartak team. There was the outside-left Salnikov, the inside-left Nikita Dementjev (brother of my friend at Wings) and there was the young 19-year-old Igor Netto at left-half.

Nikita Dementjev was a truly fantastic player, very similar to your Ted Drake. I was very fortunate to have a good partnership with him.

In my first season I scored 26 goals in 12 matches and in 1950 I scored 34 times in 14 or 15 games. This became a record in our country until young Protasov "stole" it three years ago!

But it was Dementjev who made most of my goals. He knew my potential, I was very fast — about 11 seconds over 100 metres — similar to Blokhin's pace, and his final pass or cross was almost always inch perfect.

I'm indebted to Dementjev for my high scoring at Spartak.

WHAT was your first experience of international football?

My first game for the Olympic team was in Oslo in 1950, however I didn't compete in the Olympics until 1956.

Moscow Spartak then provided the backbone of the side and eight of us played in the Final versus Yugoslavia and we took the gold medal.

We took part in many memorable friendly matches during the fifties, in particular against Wolves (losing 4-0) and Arsenal (winning 2-1).

For us, British football was a totally different ball-game in those years. The whole team competed so well and was so strong in fitness — and all your players are so good at heading from their earliest years.

I have particularly warm memories of Billy Wright.

We also played many times with the top Hungarian teams, in particular the great Honved club who we generally beat more often than they did us. We had the purple sign over them!

YOU took part in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. What are your memories of those two games against England?

Our very first match was against England and it was a great duel, a real battle. It was one of the best games of my career.

We managed to score two goals to one with only a few minutes left but the Hungarian referee gave a penalty to England, quite without justification, and from it Tom Finney equalized.

It was a very tough game. As a result of this we had to play a decider. We won it, luckily I might say, but the English took their revenge over us by beating us 5-0 at Wembley later the same year.

Haynes was a truly great player. Billy Wright gave me no room at all to play, often I felt like shouting at him "don't run so fast" or "go look after someone else".

We still had a good relationship and I remember him well. He was a gentleman both on and off the field.

I met him again in 1973 when he came with the England team for a friendly match in Moscow. Ponomarjov was the manager then and I came up from Yerevan for the game.

When I went onto the training field, Billy was there and we recognised each other 50 yards off!

Like old friends, we embraced warmly. Please extend through your magazine my best wishes to him.

WHAT are your impressions of the Brazilians of 1958?

Following our first game with England, we were very tired and exhausted. In those days there were no substitutes allowed.

Our hardest game was with Brazil. They played as if they were from another planet and we were not ready to play against such a team — they were a real superteam.

After the final whistle we sat down in the dressing room and burst out laughing. We were really lucky to lose by just two goals!

I am grateful that I saw Pele — as a 17-year-old at the start of his career — and played against Garrincha and Vava. Their play was like a show.

Going to the World Cup is like going to an academy to study and learn from the best in the world, to watch the best players and new tactics and styles of play.

In every World Cup, we have witnessed the gradual transformation of our playing tactics and the development of new stars.

The 1962 tournament, however, convinced me of the overbearing influence of tactics on football. I went there as an observer and I saw the new role of Garrincha as an orchestrator of the Brazilian play.

This one person ran the whole performance of the team both forwards and backwards.

HOW long did you play for Moscow Spartak?

I played for them until the end of the 1959 season. In that time, I scored 126 league goals and we managed to win the championship four times and the cup twice in a ten year spell.

I won the Olympic Gold at Melbourne in 1956 and I took part in all the qualifying matches for the 1960 Nations Cup, which our country won.

HOW did you make the sudden transition to being a coach?

Before retiring from the game in 1959, I had already become a fully qualified sports instructor and I was appointed the senior coach of the Moscow Spartak club from the 1960 season.

I found it exceptionally difficult to work with players with whom one had just played the year previously. I had to recondition players' mentalities, it was psychological work to build players' egos for a big game and so on.

With a break in 1956, I managed Spartak over twelve seasons and we won the league and cup twice.

YOU were also the senior coach of Ararat Yerevan when they won the league in 1973.

I was very fortunate in that, when I arrived there, all the conditions existed for a successful team, both the first and second teams were ready.

There was some outstanding talent in Makarov, Zanazanyan, Andreasyan, Istoyan and others who were all experienced.

My job was quite simple — to pick the best team. When one has fine players, it makes it a lot easier to manage them.

HOW good was that team in comparison to the Dinamo Kiev side of the mid-seventies?

There were many fine players at Kiev, however Ararat lacked the character to build on the success which Dinamo Kiev managed to do over that period.

When we beat Kiev in the 1973 Final to clinch the double, Dinamo were beating us 1-0 until their coach, then Sevidov, made a tactical blunder which allowed us to equalize and eventually win the Cup.

In 1975, I began working for the State Committee of Sport in Moscow responsible, as I am at present, for all the Soviet selects from the full national team down to the youth team, ten different teams in all.

Following the 1976 Olympics, I was appointed the senior coach of the Soviet national team. Here it was a very different regime with only monthly training sessions with the squad, usually just before a friendly or World cup qualifier.

It was very difficult to impose one's ideas on a team when often contradictory ideas existed at the player's clubs.

My biggest disappointment was the failure of David Kipiani to reproduce his club form for his country.

Kipiani's promise was obvious to everyone when Dinamo Tbilisi won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1981, yet he played his first international match more than five years earlier and he was sent off too!

As you know, we failed to qualify for the 1978 World Cup. What a pity that Kipiani's talents were never on view in the World Cup.

HOW do you see the state of modern football today?

In world football, I can only pick out Maradona and Gullit.

In the seventies, particularly in West Germany and Holland, there were more individualists, more "superstars".

In British football, I remember Bobby Charlton, Peter Shilton and Gordon Banks who, for me, was the number one keeper of all time.

We had some fine players in the sixties in Voronin and Streltsov, now we have Zavarov and Protasov who have a great potential in world football.

It seems to me that tactics are becoming more complex and are often stifling football, but I have always believed that football can never die. It can't, it's impossible.

HOW do you see football developing in your country with the new economic and political changes effected through Perestroika?

Really there are so many shortcomings and injustices in our country that must be overcome through these changes.

Football is a profession, a means of earning an income. We must have legalisation of the professional status of football players.

It is, for them, work. We must change the whole structure in football from the part-time set-up of students, fitters and PE instructors to full professionalism.

The most important thing is our work with children. We don't know how to develop this as in Western countries.

We don't have proper training fields, training equipment, football strips and boots. Young children must have these guaranteed for them.

We don't have enough training schools with modern facilities. The sports school in West Germany where our team stayed during the European Championships is only one out of dozens in that country, yet we don't have a single one of comparable standard in the Soviet Union.

Our fans demand that we play as well as the leading western clubs, but we are still well behind them as far as conditions are concerned.

We have needed such changes for a long time and I am sure that in Valery Lobanvsky, Yuri Morozov, Sergei Mosyagin and myself, Soviet football can reach higher achievements in years to come.

YOUTH CUP A WIN

From JONATHAN SHALLARD

EVERY passing tournament increases the importance and stature of the World Youth Cup. It is guaranteed that the finals to be staged this month in Saudi Arabia will maintain that progress.

The Coca-Cola backed World Youth Cup is of far greater significance now than the Olympic football tournament. This is because all nations — barring those who use Mexican passport-bending techniques — compete on an equal footing. There is none of the one-rule-for-you-another-for-us nonsense which has turned the Olympic event into such a hybrid of inequality.

What value is there for an African nation to do well in the Olympics, knowing that Europe and South America is hamstring by the ban on World Cup men? Certainly any success is important in encouraging the game at domestic levels. But the Olympic rules have really done the Africans no favours in their attempts to claim higher representation at international events.

FIFA have realised this now by deciding on an under-24 across-the-board age limit for the Olympics. If that provokes the International Olympic Committee to rule soccer out of bounds in Barcelona in 1992 (which seems highly unlikely given the Spanish passion for the game) only the Olympics will be the loser.

The winner, if that should come to pass, will be the World Youth Cup which will then be seen clearly for what it is — the second most important global soccer event.

One needs only look back at the list of Top Player awards, which includes names such as Diego Maradona of Argentina, Vladimir Besonov from the Soviet Union as well as Brazil's Silas and Geovani. All have become established internationals, all in turn helping to underline the value of the World Youth Cup to players, coaches, nations and clubs.

It took only a short time for most people in the game to understand its importance. That is why officials around the world — not all of them known for their administrative reflexes — worked quickly to bring the regional youth tournaments within the Youth Cup framework.

One could have understood a reluctance in Europe to alter the rules and traditions of the European Youth Tournament — which was, for years, known as the Little World Cup. After all, this was probably the game's most long-standing and highly thought-of event of its kind.

Hans Bangerter, recently retired general secretary of UEFA, wrote in the early days: "The European federations greeted the first World Youth Cup in 1977 with a certain amount of scepticism.

"But all who can now take part and it is essential that we restructure our UEFA youth championship to ensure that our six European teams which qualify for the FIFA finals have the best possible chance to prepare properly."

That was exactly what happened, which is why the Soviet Union (European champions), Portugal (European runners-up), Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Norway and Spain will be expected to present a high profile in Saudi Arabia. The Soviets will, indeed, be likely to rival Brazil as pre-tournament favourites.

Brazil have the best record. Twice they have won the Cup, they have played more games in the finals than anyone else (25), won more games (18), lost only three and present an awesome goals count of 53 for and 15 against. Despite changes among the top brass at the CBF in January it seems likely that coach Rene Simoes will remain in charge and his playing squad will be close to this:

Marcelo (America Rio), Carlos (Vasco da Gama), Elbert (XV Jau), Toninho (Atletico Mineiro), China (Fluminense), Andrei (XV Jau), Anderson (Juventus SP), Cassio

1989 WORLD YOUTH CUP FINALS (in Saudi Arabia)

First round

Group A (S.Arabia, Nigeria, Czech, Portugal)

Feb 16	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia v Nigeria
Feb 17	Riyadh	Czechoslovakia v Portugal
Feb 19	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia v Czechoslovakia
Feb 20	Riyadh	Nigeria v Portugal
Feb 22	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia v Portugal
Feb 22	Riyadh	Nigeria v Czechoslovakia

Group B (C.Rica, Colombia, Sov.Union, Asia/Oceania)

Feb 17	Dammam	Costa Rica v Colombia
Feb 17	Dammam	Soviet Union v (Asia/Oceania)
Feb 19	Dammam	Costa Rica v Soviet Union
Feb 20	Dammam	Colombia v (Asia/Oceania)
Feb 22	Dammam	Costa Rica v (Asia/Oceania)
Feb 22	Dammam	Colombia v Soviet Union

Group C (Brazil, E.Germany, Mali, USA)

Feb 17	Jeddah	Brazil v East Germany
Feb 17	Jeddah	Mali v United States
Feb 19	Jeddah	Brazil v Mali
Feb 20	Jeddah	East Germany v United States
Feb 22	Jeddah	Brazil v United States
Feb 22	Jeddah	East Germany v Mali

Group D (Norway, Iraq, Argentina, Spain)

Feb 17	Taif	Norway v Iraq
Feb 17	Taif	Argentina v Spain
Feb 19	Taif	Norway v Argentina
Feb 20	Taif	Iraq v Spain
Feb 22	Taif	Norway v Spain
Feb 22	Taif	Iraq v Argentina

Quarter-finals

Feb 25	Riyadh	A1 v B2
Feb 25	Dammam	B1 v A2
Feb 25	Jeddah	C1 v D2
Feb 25	Taif	D1 v C2

Semi-finals

Feb 28	Riyadh	A1/B2 v C1/D2
Feb 28	Jeddah	B1/A2 v D1/C2

Third Place Play-off

Mar 3 Riyadh

Final

Mar 3 Riyadh

PAST FINALS.— 1977 (Tunisia): Soviet Union by Mexico 9-8 on pens after 2-2 draw (Best player award: Vladimir Bessonov, Sov.Union. Top scorer: Quina, Brz, 4 goals). 1979 (Japan): Argentina bt Soviet Union 3-1 (Best player award: Diego Maradona, Arg. Top scorer: Ramon Diaz, Arg, 8 goals). 1981 (Australia): West Germany bt Qatar 4-0 (Best player award: Romulus Gabor, Rum. Top scorer: Mark Koussas, Australia, 4 goals). 1983 (Mexico): Brazil bt Argentina 1-0 (Best player award: Geovani, Brz. Top scorer: Geovani, Brz, 6 goals). 1985 (Soviet Union): Brazil bt Spain 1-0 (Best player award: Silas, Brz. Top scorer: Sebastian Losada, Sp, 3 goals). 1987 (Chile): Yugoslavia bt West Germany 5-4 on pens after 1-1 draw (Best player award: Robert Prosinecki, Yug. Top scorer: Marcel Witeczek, WG, 7 goals).

KIWI CH

from PAUL MOON in Auckland

THE re-appointment of John Adshead — the man who guided New Zealand to and through the 1982 World Cup finals — as the Kiwis' national team coach in November provided soccer in the Shaky Isles with a much needed lift of morale and restored links with its finest hour.

Although the rest of the world regarded New Zealand's participation in the Spanish finals as a mere cameo sketch, it was viewed in New Zealand itself at the time as a highly significant milestone.

The multitude back home watching televised proceedings in Malaga and Seville — as the "All Whites" fought valiantly to hold Scotland, USSR and Brazil to 2-5, 0-3 and 0-4 scorelines respectively — felt great satisfaction over local players for the first time proving themselves capable of rubbing shoulders with the best in the world without suffering humiliation.

The country's sports journalists drooled over the amount of money the national association was expected to gain from "Espana '82" and all unrealistically claimed that the bonanza would be sufficient to finance New Zealand soccer's development for many years to come.

In the process of qualifying for the 1982 Mundial, New Zealand travelled a total of 55,000 miles across Asia and the Pacific and played a record 15 matches.

It was an epic journey which had more moments of euphoria and despair than any soap opera and captured the imagination of a country which had previously paid little heed to the game.

Add to this the astonishingly high and, it appeared, ever expanding number of schoolboys committed to playing soccer and the widely expressed notion that the round ball code would eventualy eclipse the national obsession, rugby union, in popularity did not, late in 1982, seem too banal.

Alas, this upsurge in optimism proved to be baseless for in the intervening years New Zealand

NER

(Vasco da Gama), Ari (Corinthians), Leonardo (Flamengo), Sandro (Ponte Preta), Alexandre (Palmeiras), Edson Luis (America), Rogerio (Flamengo), Alexandre II (Londrina), Djair (Botafogo), Sousa (Londrina), Moacir (Atletico Mineiro), Charles (Guarani), Franca (Vasco da Gama), Marcio (XV Jau), Bismarck (Vasc da Gama), Assis (Gremio), Luciano (Guarani), Sergio Gil (Corinthians) and Gilmar (Atletico Mineiro).

Players such as Sandro and Bismarck, established first-team stars in domestic football, could emerge as dominant individuals. But then, Brazil have such a talent for turning up new starlets that is a predicition which could prove way off target.

Nigeria — third in Moscow in 1985 and three times African youth champions — present the best hopes of that continent. It will be interesting to see how the intently-organised United States make out. They owe their place in the finals to the exclusion of Mexico's age-benders. But a number of the US team, if they have any sort of ambition, should be looking not merely to Saudi Arabia in the short-term but to their prospects of playing for their country as hosts of the 'real thing' at the 1994 World Cup.

That, after all, is what the World Youth Cup is all about.

Diego Maradona . . . the outstanding graduate

ERS

soccer has stumbled from foul-up to fiasco to fracas as its fortunes have declined alarmingly.

With the aid of hindsight, the resignation of Adshead following a disagreement with then New Zealand Football Association Chairman and current Oceania Confederation President Charlie Dempsey (the details of which have still to surface) in February, 1983 must be regarded as the turning point.

Adshead, an engaging and highly articulate personality, is not only a proficient coach but also highly effective in the field of public relations.

In many ways a "poor man's Bill Shankly", he was a major reason why soccer in New Zealand enjoyed an image every other sport envied six years ago.

His successor was Allan Jones, whose major claim to "fame" remains as perennial English League stragglers Darlington's twelfth post war manager in the early 1970s.

Technically, Jones is an excellent coach but his extraordinary arrogance and sad lack of acumen in man-management nullified that "blackboard expertise".

A disastrous Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifying tournament at Singapore in April 1984 — during which New Zealand lost all four of its games (including the clashes against a Saudi Arabian side it had beaten 5-0 in Riyadh, en route to Spain, and the weak, naive Bahrain) — dramatically illustrated how momentum had been lost.

Six unproductive months later, Jones joined the staff of a Kuwaiti club.

Next at the helm was Kevin Fallon, who had served as assistant to Adshead and Jones.

Fallon's English League playing career was effectively terminated, after just four appearances, by his role in an Essex night club brawl whilst on Southend United's books in Christmas, 1969.

He has never suffered fools gladly, nor has he attempted to hide his belief that fools abound in the media, both at home and abroad, and in all sections of New Zealand's soccer fraternity.

Throughout his stint in charge of the All Whites, the abrasive Fallon fought a protracted battle against every branch of the media and constantly clashed with players under his wing (two walked out whilst in training camp and another found himself in court, having smashed Fallon's car sidelights after a heated exchange).

Unfortunately, the Yorkshireman failed to arrest New Zealand's decline and last November, the Kiwis suffered their biggest humiliation for many years when Fiji won two games in a three match series and drew the other.

In 1981, New Zealand had annihilated Fiji 13-0.

Yet, it wasn't the Fijian debacle or any other poor performance on the field which prompted Fallon's subsequent resignation but his opposition to the New Zealand Football Association's decision not to pay squad members a daily allowance when on World Cup duty, due to its dire financial plight.

Sadly, the NZFA's economic position deteriorated in the past six years as rapidly as the national side's standing.

Whatever money was raised from the 1982 World Cup adventure has long gone (and nobody has yet adequately explained just where it went to!).

The national administrative body has also been guilty of making countless blunders (far too many to be catalogued here) whilst conducting domestic competitions and in its every day housekeeping.

Little wonder then that the public conceive it as an organisation so inept it makes the Keystone Kops look as competent as a Swiss financial instituation.

Although the NZFA is not entirely to blame for the All Whites' slump (a small country, without any real soccer tradition, New Zealand will always lack the playing depth necessary for consistency), its overall ineffectuality in recent times and penchant for washing dirty linen in public is primarily responsible for soccer losing the sympathy of the general populace.

Ironically, soccer's decline has coincided with a period in which rugby union has never been stronger — or better run.

New Zealand soccer receded to its lowest ebb with the resignation of Fallon, which closely followed the admission that the NZFA's coffers were so bare that withdrawal from the World Cup had been seriously contemplated.

Since then, morale at least has been boosted by two occurences — the return of John Adshead as All Whites coach and the resumption of Wynton Rufer's international career.

A financial package put together by the Caprana Company, whose managing director Dennis Tindall is a former New Zealand international, induced Rufer to turn out for his country again.

Rufer's presence was the major reason for a crowd of 9,000 passing through the turnstiles in Auckland just before Christmas to see the second leg of a "dead" World Cup tie against the Chinese — New Zealand had already won the first encounter 4-0.

from PETER LAW in ROTTERDAM

BRAZIL'S INSIDE TRACK

THERE was neither a Gullit nor a Careca on hand in Rotterdam as Holland faced Brazil in the final of FIFA's newest creation, their inaugural World Indoor Cup for five-a-side football.

Fielding teams of generally unknown indoor specialist players, there were few name players to pull in the crowds as the low-key tournament progressed.

Played in differing formats across the globe, as well as under differing rules, the indoor game has presented a curious and fragmented scenario.

The development of a definitive set of rules was undertaken by FIFA in 1985 and a number of tournaments took place to put the new statutes to the test.

With minor tuning, the world body were pleased with their new conception and invited 16 nations to compete in Holland.

In October, an Indoor Championship had been staged in several Australian cities, although this was not the new FIFA game but the long-established futebol du salao (better known as fut/sal) indoor game.

Fut/sal has its own governing body, the Sao Paulo-based FIFUSA, whose officials were present in Holland to study the FIFA indoor game.

Meetings are planned to bring FIFUSA into the FIFA fold, examine their differences and consider any amendments to the rules, which are at present open to some revision.

Incidentally, there are 62 differences between the FIFA and fut/sal games — and they are not the only kinds of indoor soccer widely played.

Given the lack of publicity, it was hard to predict which of the 16 countries could be considered serious contenders for the title.

One expected Holland, Belgium and Hungary among the European contenders to do well, along with the fut/sal players of Brazil and Paraguay.

The South American neighbours had contested the recent final of the World Cup of fut/sal, the Paraguayans ending Brazil's three-year undefeated run in this sphere with a 2-1 victory in Melbourne.

The first round in Holland served to separate the weaker nations from the serious contenders and some high-scoring matches ensued, though genuine excitement was usually lacking.

In one absorbing encounter, Paraguay faced Denmark's outdoor players, controlled the first-half by using their keeper as a libero and turned around with a single goal advantage.

After the interval, the Danes used their keeper in a similar manner and extracted a draw, sharing four goals.

The extravagant touches of the fut/sal specialists provided some enjoyment while the surprise team of the competition, the United States, sent a team that integrated both outdoor players from their national squad, as well as players from the indoor league, the MISL.

Eight qualifiers progressed to the second round — Spain, Canada, Denmark and Australia were all eliminated having performed creditably while Algeria, Japan, Zimbabwe and Saudi Arabia finished pointless, suffering at times while learning valuable lessons about the indoor game.

The second round paired off the four European sides into one group, with the other containing four from the Americas.

In Group A, Belgium and Holland progressed to semi-final places at the expense of Hungary and Italy.

Under KNVB staff coach Ron Groenwoud, the Dutch had faced some adverse press comment but did enough to qualify despite losing their final group match 2-1 to Belgium in Arnhem.

The meetings of the Americas sides provided slightly better fare, with the USA bringing an unbeaten record into the second round.

They came from behind to overcome Argentina 3-1, saw off Paraguay 2-0 before facing Brazil in their final match.

Holding a 2-0 interval lead, they survived some anxious moments before extending their advantage to 5-1 late in the game.

The talented Brazilians pulled back two late goals to go down 3-5, although the US thoroughly merited their win.

Paraguay bowed out despite playing some neat soccer while the Argentines proved a disappointment.

The semi-finals in Rotterdam pitted the hosts against the USA and Belgium against Brazil.

Penalties were needed to separate the Belgians and Brazilians after the teams had finished level at 3-3 after extra-time, with the South Americans winning 5-3.

Holland took the initiative in their semi against the USA, captain Hermans shooting home from a short free-kick.

The same player scored a second from close range in the second-half and although the Americans pulled a goal back through Garraba, the Dutch hung on to win.

Rotterdam's Ahoy Sports Complex staged the final, with an attendance of 4,000 present for the last two matches.

The USA defeated Belgium in the third-place play-off, a win that was extravagantly celebrated as the Americans earned their highest-eve placing in a FIFA tournament.

With a team drawn predominantly from fut/sal players of the Bradesco club of Rio, Brazil, with their short passing game, started as favourites in the final.

They went ahead after 11 minutes Benatti brushing aside defenders to place the ball past an onrushing keeper.

With the match some six minutes from completion, the Dutch grabbed a lifeline when Hermans fed Loosveld, who volleyed home the equaliser.

But two minutes later, Raul won possession and struck a fierce volley inside the post to restore Brazil's lead.

1989 WORLD INDOOR CUP

FIRST ROUND

Group A

Jan 5 (Rotterdam): Holland 4, Denmark 2 — Paraguay 5, Algeria 0.
Jan 7 (Amsterdam): Denmark 2, Paraguay 2 — Holland 4, Algeria 1.
Jan 8 (Arnhem): Paraguay 2, Holland 2 — (Amsterdam) Denmark 8, Algeria 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	2	1	0	10	5	5
Paraguay	3	1	2	0	9	4	4
Denmark	3	1	1	1	12	10	3
Algeria	3	0	0	3	5	17	0

Group B

Jan 6 (Leeuwarden): Hungary 3, Brazil 2 — Spain 8, Saudi Arabia 2.
Jan 7 (s'Hertogenbosch): Brazil 8, Saudi Arabia 0 — Spain 5, Hungary 3.
Jan 8 (Leeuwarden): Hungary 11, S. Arabia 2 — (s'Hertogenbosch) Brazil 4, Spain 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	1	14	4	4
Hungary	3	2	0	1	17	9	4
Spain	3	2	0	1	14	9	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	4	27	0

Group C

Jan 6 (s'Hertogenbosch): Belgium 3, Japan 0 — Argentina 3, Canada 1.
Jan 7 (Leeuwarden): Belgium 2, Canada 0 — Argentina 2, Japan 1.
Jan 8 (Leeuwarden): Canada 6, Japan 2 — (s'Hertogenbosch) Belgium 3, Argentina 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	3	0	0	8	1	6
Argentina	3	2	0	1	6	5	4
Canada	3	1	0	2	7	7	2
Japan	3	0	0	3	3	11	0

Group D

Jan 6 (Amsterdam): Italy 5, Zimbabwe 1 — Australia 1, United States 1.
Jan 7 (Arnhem): United States 5, Zimbabwe 1 — Italy 6, Australia 1.
Jan 8 (Arnhem): United States 4, Italy 1 — (Amsterdam) Australia 4, Zimbabwe 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	3	2	1	0	10	3	5
Italy	3	2	0	1	12	6	4
Australia	3	1	1	1	6	8	3
Zimbabwe	3	0	0	3	3	14	0

SECOND ROUND

Group One

Jan 10 (Rotterdam): Holland 3, Hungary 3 — Belgium 5, Italy 1.
Jan 11 (Arnhem): Hungary 2, Belgium 2 — Holland 4, Italy 1.
Jan 12 (Arnhem): Belgium 2, Holland 1 — (Rotterdam) Italy 3, Hungary 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	2	1	0	9	4	5
Holland	3	1	1	1	8	6	3
Hungary	3	0	2	1	6	8	2
Italy	3	1	0	2	5	10	2

Group Two

Jan 10 (Arnhem): Brazil 5, Paraguay 1 — United States 3, Argentina 1.
Jan 11 (Rotterdam): United States 2, Paraguay 0 — Brazil 6, Argentina 3.
Jan 12 (Arnhem): Paraguay 4, Argentina 3 — (Rotterdam) United States 5, Brazil 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	3	3	0	0	10	4	6
Brazil	3	2	0	1	14	9	4
Paraguay	3	1	0	2	5	10	2
Argentina	3	0	0	3	7	13	0

World Cup tickets on sale already

TICKETS for the 1990 World Cup finals are due to go on sale on February 1 in Italy.

Never mind that politicians and unions are still squabbling about renovations to the Olympic stadium in Rome which will host the Final.

Never mind that much of the parking land at San Siro, Milan, has been turned into a giant builders' yard; never mind the fact that the government's £220 million infrastructure grant did not finally become law until November (four months later than planned).

Those are problems for the Italians to get on with resolving. If Argentina, Spain and Mexico could stage World Cups despite the assorted threats of a revolution and urban terrorism manic infighting and then an earthquake disaster, there seems no reason to doubt that Italy will be just about ready.

BRAZIL skipper Raul with the Cup.

SEMI-FINALS

Jan 14 (Rotterdam): Brazil 4, Belgium 3 — Holland 2, United States 1.

THIRD PLACE MATCH

Jan 15 (Rotterdam): United States 3, Belgium 2.

THE FINAL

Brazil 2 (Benatti, Raul), Holland 1 (Loosveld). Referee: W.Crombie (Scot).

BRAZIL.- Lula (Silvio Sergio Astor G.Machado), Cadinho (Joao Ricardo P.Sampaio), Dirceu (Dirceu Ventura Teixeira), Gilson (Gilson M.Moreira), Marquinhos (Marcos da Silva Simpson), Benatti (Sergio Benatti Pasculi de Curci), Atila (Atila Storni), Raul (Raul de Cerqueira de Rezende), Toca (Carlos Octavio C.dos Santos), Carlos Alberto (Carlos Alberto da Cunha), Neimar (Neimar Jose Valadares de Castro), Serginho (Sergio Luiz Coelho Pinto), Adilio (Adilio de Oliveira Goncalves). Coach: Gerson Tristao.

Note: Gilson and Atila did not play in the Final.

HOLLAND.- Ton Bakhuis, Jeffrey Fore, Andre Tielens, Vic Hermans, Marcel Loosveld, Rein Van der Heuvel, Wiljan Van Vijfeijken, Mario Faber, Eduard Demandt, Hans Van Leeuwen, Andre Bakker, Michel Seintner, Michel Wentzel. Coach: Ron Groenewoud.

Note: Van Vijfeijken and Van Leeuwen did not play in the Final.

Tournament top scorers.- Zsadaniy (Hun) 7 goals; Benatti, Toca (Brz), Borostyan (Hun), Hermans (Hol) 5 each.

Fair Play Trophy: United States.

1990 MATCH SCHEDULE

1990 WORLD CUP FINALS (in Italy)

Team numbers to be allocated at the December 9 draw in Rome but Argentina, as holders, are expected to be No 5, hosts Italy No 1. Kick-offs as per local time.

FIRST ROUND

Group A (Olimpico, Rome/Comunale, Florence)

Sat, June 9	1 v 2	Rome	9pm
Sun, June 10	3 v 4	Florence	5pm
Thu, June 14	1 v 3	Rome	9pm
Fri, June 15	2 v 4	Florence	5pm
Tue, June 19	1 v 4	Rome	9pm
Tue, June 19	2 v 3	Florence	9pm

Group B (Opening Game at Meazza, Milan/San Paolo, Naples/Della Vittoria, Bari)

Fri, June 8	5 v 6	Milan	6pm
Sat, June 9	7 v 8	Bari	5pm
Wed, June 13	5 v 7	Naples	9pm
Thu, June 14	6 v 8	Bari	9pm
Mon, June 18	5 v 8	Naples	9pm
Mon, June 18	6 v 7	Bari	9pm

Group C (Comunale, Turin/Luigi Ferraris, Genoa)

Sun, June 10	9 v 10	Turin	9pm
Mon, June 11	11 v 12	Genoa	5pm
Sat, June 18	9 v 11	Turin	5pm
Sat, June 18	10 v 12	Genoa	9pm
Wed, June 20	9 v 12	Turin	9pm
Wed, June 20	10 v 11	Genoa	9pm

Group D (Meazza, Milan/Renato Dell'Ara, Bologna)

Sat, June 9	15 v 16	Bologna	9pm
Sun, June 10	13 v 14	Milan	9pm
Thu, June 14	14 v 16	Bologna	5pm
Fri, June 15	13 v 15	Milan	9pm
Tue, June 19	13 v 16	Milan	5pm
Tue, June 19	14 v 15	Bologna	5pm

Group E (Comunale, Verona/Friuli, Udine)

Tue, June 12	17 v 18	Verona	5pm
Wed, June 13	19 v 20	Udine	5pm
Sun, June 17	17 v 19	Verona	9pm
Sun, June 17	18 v 20	Udine	9pm
Thu, June 21	17 v 20	Verona	5pm
Thu, June 21	18 v 19	Udine	5pm

Group F (Sant'Elia, Cagliari/Della Favorita, Palermo)

Mon, June 11	21 v 22	Cagliari	9pm
Tue, June 12	23 v 24	Palermo	9pm
Sat, June 16	21 v 23	Cagliari	9pm
Sun, June 17	22 v 24	Palermo	5pm
Thu, June 21	21 v 24	Cagliari	9pm
Thu, June 21	22 v 23	Palermo	9pm

SECOND ROUND

Sat, June 23	B1 v A3/C3/D3	Naples	5pm
Sat, June 23	A2 v C2	Bari	9pm
Sun, June 24	C1 v A3/B3/F3	Turin	5pm
Sun, June 24	D1 v B3/E3/F3	Milan	9pm
Mon, June 25	A1 v C3/D3/E3	Rome	9pm
Mon, June 25	F2 v B2	Genoa	5pm
Tue, June 26	F1 v E2	Bologna	9pm
Tue, June 26	E1 v D2	Verona	5pm

QUARTER-FINALS

Sat, June 30	W/Genoa v W/Rome	Rome	9pm
Sat, June 30	W/Turin v W/Verona	Florence	5pm
Sun, July 1	W/Naples v W/Bologna	Naples	9pm
Sun, July 1	W/Bari v W/Milan	Milan	5pm

SEMI-FINALS

Tue, July 3	W/Florence v W/Rome	Naples	8pm
Wed, July 4	W/Milan v W/Naples	Turin	8pm

THIRD PLACE MATCH

Sat, July 7		Bari	8pm

FINAL

Sun, July 8		Rome	8pm

BULGARIA . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

NO REST FOR CLUBS AS CUP MATCHES START

THERE was little respite for Bulgarian clubs and players come the end of the autumn half season.

It was straight into one of the two cup competitions which affords a place in Europe, the Soviet Army Cup, the winners of which qualify for the UEFA Cup.

In this competition, one match is played. Draws are decided by a penalty shoot-out, the clubs of lower status have the right to home advantage and the next round's ties are drawn out of the hat as soon as the results are known.

This modus has resulted in fairly modest performers getting into Europe and little progress beyond the UEFA Cup first round.

In the eighth finals, neither Sredets nor Vitosha made any mistake, Vitosha accounting for Etar at home 3-1 and the league leaders winning 2-0 away to Ossam.

Two top division heads did roll, however. Chernomorets accounted for Sliven by the only goal and Hebar, also of Division Two, scored a 2-0 success over Lok Gorna.

Unpredictable Slavia just beat Akademik in Svichtov while fellow Sofia club Lok lost to Trakia in Plovdiv, so there was high provincial representation in the quarter-finals.

They were scheduled for a week later and by the time the holiday break came, Sredets, Chernomorets and Vitosha had qualified for the semi-finals whilst the Trakia-Slavia tie in Plovdiv had to be postponed.

Satisfied

Off the field, another change has taken place. The country's top and most prestigious club, Sredets, has again been re-named.

There have been about a dozen such changes in the club's 44- year history and it has now been re-integrated into the Central Army Sports Club.

As CASC, manager Penev's men will face Roda JC in March, a draw with which the Bulgarians are more than satisfied although they appreciate that the southern Dutchmen are a tough side.

On the other hand, CASC's chances of qualifying for the semi-finals are rather better than if they had drawn Mechelen or Barcelona.

Goals will be needed in the first leg in Sofia where, for months, the autumn champions have been far too good for all- comers, including Inter Bratislava and Panathinaikos.

In the annual Bulgarian Footballer of the Year competition, another Penev, Luboslav, has come out on top with 91 votes.

Selection is made by journalists, each of whom may make three nominations.

Penev was placed 70 votes ahead of the 1987 winner, Iliev of Vitosha, and 67 in front of his club-mate Stoitchov.

The 22-year-old Penev is the son of a former Lok Sofia player and his uncle is the current CASC team manager.

He made his debut four seasons ago and has since won 14 caps, played regularly in the Olympic team, scored seven goals in 21 under-21 matches and represented the under-18 international team nine times.

Penev is an accomplished technical forward with a nose for goal who is well over six feet and not easily pushed off the ball.

Haul

He is up among the front-runners for the European 'Golden Boot' award, having scored 18 times in the 15 autumn championship matches which has brought his haul in 88 games in the First Division to 60.

He is also the leading scorer in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Penev is spending part of the mid-season break in the Middle East, where CASC have already defeated the United Arab Emirates team and are due to play Kuwait during a sunshine training camp away from the snow of home.

On their return, European Cup Winners' Cup ties and a Soviet Army Cup semi-final beckon, and the question is whether the Sofia army side can become the first Bulgarians to reach a European final.

Elsewhere in Europe, Bulgarian players are making news.

Sirakov, signed by Zaragoza last summer, proved unfit and the Spanish club invoked a clause in the contract with Vitosha — which also included the Spaniards agreeing to play in the Vitosha tournament in Sofia — whereby they could sign another of the Bulgarian champions' staff.

Their choice fell upon the speedy international winger Iskrenov but Vitosha countered by offering Guetov.

In the meantime, or before negotiations had gone any further, Guetov departed for Portugal and signed a three-year contract with Portimonese.

Vitosha then agreed Zaragoza's request. All parties appear content, so much so that Portimonese have also taken on Simeonov of Sliven!

HONEST F THE PRID OF GERM

WEST GERMAN football is proud of 23-year-old Frank Ordenewitz, the young striker of champions Werder Bremen who became the first individual winner of FIFA's 'Fair Play' prize.

At a time when professional footballers are in ever-decreasing numbers dubbed cheats and when even international players — like Manchester United's Viv Anderson for example — propagate the use of the professional foul to stop an opponent and advise how to trick the referee, it is indeed refreshing to find a player whose disarming honesty has earned admiration throughout football.

On May 7 last year in a league match against Koln, Ordenewitz committed a handling offence in his own penalty area.

The referee, who was unsighted, gave a corner but the Cologne players protested. And when the official asked Ordenewitz directly what happened, he admitted he handled the ball and a penalty was awarded which Koln converted to win 2-0.

It matters little that Werder were, by then, already champions so they could afford to be generous. The principle remains.

Ordenewitz says of the incident: "One can try to be smart but still honest.

"I am glad that FIFA have recognised my attitude. Football has recently been treated so negatively that such a prize is certainly a positive event for the image of our sport."

The prize was a trophy worth £4,000, plus a cheque for £20,000 which Ordenewitz donated to a fund which helps some 100 deprived children in Bremen to enjoy Christmas parties every year.

Ordenewitz, nicknamed "Otze", learned his soccer with his local club TSV Dorfmark.

Jurgen Kohler . . . record transfer

RANK

NY

WEST GERMANY . . . by ARTHUR ROTMIL

He joined Werder in 1981, played twice in the national side and will be getting married to his fiancee Heike this year.

She, too, agreed: "Frank's admission during the match was so natural that we hardly talked about it afterwards. I would have reacted exactly like him."

The Bundesliga is bridging the winter gap between the first and second-half of the season with a series of indoor tournaments.

Between December 28 and January 21, there were 19 such events staged altogether, culminating in the so-called 'Masters' which took place in Dortmund's Westfalenhalle, which has a capacity of 11,923.

Mostly full houses were reported as over 30 West German professional sides battled for honours, together with clubs from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Turkey, plus the national team from Zambia.

The winner of the 'Masters' is acknowledged as the country's top indoor champion and receives £33,000, with the runners-up landing £25,000, raised mainly by sponsors.

The games last 12 minutes each way and the fans appreciate the indoor warmth, comfort, facilities and fast-flowing games.

And the managers regard it as an ideal bridge and important preparation for the league programme which resumes on February 18.

Sadly, there have been some uncompromising tackles which led to serious injuries, notably to Bayern Munich's top striker Roland Wohlfarth and the Dutch international keeper Hans Van Breukelen of PSV Eindhoven.

On the transfer market, the most important move could be that of the country's best defender Jurgen Kohler, 23, from 1.FC Koln to, probably, Bayern Munich.

The proposed fee of over £1 million would be a record for a defensive player.

Koln could be further weakened because the league's top scorer Thomas Allofs is studying offers from abroad. In order to keep Kohler, the Cologne club have apparently suggested a hefty pay rise — the talk is of £266,000 a year.

Since Bayern only pay a maximum wage of £200,000, Koln are hoping, with the help of sponsors, to dissuade their top player from moving elsewhere.

Kohler claims he is "looking for more immediate success with a big club". He is appealing to the fans for understanding and reminds them he has always given 100 per cent to the club.

As his successor, rumours suggest either the international Guido Buchwald (VfB Stuttgart) or Martin Kree (VfL Bochum).

On the managerial front, the new team boss of bottom placed Eintracht Frankfurt is Jorg Berger, 44.

He is the fourth trainer in Frankfurt this season after the sacking of Karlheinz Feldkamp, Pal Csernai and the assistant coach and temporary manager Hans-Dieter Zahnleiter.

The other candidates were Hannes Bongartz, now with FC Zurich, and Hannes Lohr, the team chief of the Olympic squad. Both these coaches were not, however, released from their contracts.

Berger defected from East Germany ten years ago and landed in Frankfurt. He played for Lokomotive Leipzig, where he became youth team manager, then chief coach at FC Jena and Chemie Halle.

Later, he was in charge of the East German youth and B sides.

In West Germany, he took over at Darmstadt, then managed SSV Ulm, Fortuna Dusseldorf, Hessen Kassel, Hannover and lately Freiburg SC.

Berger takes over a famous club in a crisis. Since the start of the season, Eintracht have fired not only three team managers but also parted company with two presidents and a general manager.

CZECH MATES AT DERBY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

THE Knoflicek and Kubik story has run and run, mostly abroad until at last they appeared in Derby County track suits to say they were signing on at the Baseball Ground, would like to play for England and, if that is impossible, reach the FA Cup Final at Wembley.

That cannot be before 1990 at the earliest and the outlook on the international front will most certainly be less rosy.

The losers are Slavia, who seem likely to come out of the affair without a bean — no Maxwell House pun intended! — and the Czechoslovak national side, which could do with their help in the World Cup qualifying games.

Bias

Back home, the 'Autumn Team' has been chosen, though with only two actors from the table-topping Sparta 'Reds'.

In a 4-2-4 formation, it reads: Miklosko (Banik) — Bieleik (Sparta), Kadlec (Tj Vitkovice), Kinier (Slovan), J.Molnar (Banska Bystricia) — Hasek (Sparta), K.Kula (Banik), Fryda (Slavia), Moravcik (Nitra) — Sedlacek (Sigma), M.Luhovy (Dukla).

Some commentators might detect a slight Slovak bias but, in fairness, two players from Moravia's top club Banik make the side and they are among the reasons for the reawakening of Ostrava's sleeping giant, which has been rather in the shadow of cross-town rivals Vitkovice in recent seasons.

Their stopper, Kadlec, a thorn in the side of Dundee United in the 1987/88 UEFA Cup, is also included but his team-mate Vlk is not.

There cannot have been much between the two international goalkeepers — Miklosko, who got the vote, and Smejskal of Sparta, were both beaten less than once a game on average.

Few would question Hasek's selection or that his club will take the title again.

What is less satisfactory is Sparta's quality when measured against European opposition, even when the squad from the Letna includes eight or nine current internationals.

A two-horse race is forecast by many experts in the spring with Plastika Nitra and Slavia outsiders in third and fourth place.

Banik were the only visitors to take a point from the Letna in the autumn.

The Miners' talented young team plays quick, uncomplicated football and seemed to be gaining experience and improving from week to week.

Sparta, on the other hand, will have to get on without the services of libero Chovanec, whom they have transferred to PSV Eindhoven.

Encouraging for spectators was the increase over autumn 1987 in goals scored. The average per game went up from 2.9 to 3.1, with Luhovy of Dukla, tenth in the league, the leading goalscorer on 13.

On his heels are Dina (Banska Bystrica) and Jankovic, each with 12.

The latter's club, Slovan, have done better than expected, though only four points separate the seventh club, Sigma Olomouc, from the fourteenth, Skoda.

The Plzen club and fellow Czech sufferers Red Star Cheb and Spartak Hradec Kralove are deep in trouble, the bottom two finding it particularly difficult to score goals.

Less pleasing was the increased use by referees of the red card in the top class — 26 dismissals were recorded, two more than last autumn and five more than in 1986.

While the Football Association had instructed officials to get tough, there was no excuse for the rough play which punctuated most games and for the unpleasant atmosphere caused by excessively violent tackling.

Artistry naturally suffered. In 79 matches, the home side won, there were 16 draws and 26 away wins.

Attendances were marginally up, 677,061 paying spectators being recorded for an average gate of 5,642.

Sparta's home average was 11,042, by far the best of the 16 teams.

GREECE . . . from LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

DETARI LEAVES CHARGES BEHIND

OLYMPIAKOS star Lajos Detari has returned from Hungary after testifying before a fact-finding committee looking into the Hungarian soccer scandal.

"I've cleared everything up and have got rid of all the stress," said Detari.

"The charges against me proved false. I had nothing to do with these bribes.

"Now this is behind me and I want to offer much more to Olympiakos and I want to help the Hungarian national team as well."

A second list of soccer players who had received money from the illegal account of banker-publisher and Olympiakos owner George Koskotas was sent to the investigating committee looking into the huge scandal.

According to local press reports, 40 players and other persons associated with the sport are on the list, which has not been made public as was the first list two months ago which contained some top soccer names.

The main opposition conservative New Democracy Party said in a statement that Olympiakos was an historic soccer club and added that the current state of affairs is leading the club to dissolution.

The statement said that the first act which should take place is that Olympiakos should be disassociated from the Bank of Crete to facilitate the finding of a viable and economic solution, which will enable the team to continue its course without any obstacles.

Olympiakos have been in trouble since owner Koskotas, who also owned the Bank of Crete, skipped the country in early November to avoid facing charges of fraud, forgery and embezzlement at the bank's expense.

As if Olympiakos did not have enough financial problems, they will now have to pay between 50 and 70 million drachmas for some 8,000 seats destroyed by their outraged fans during a match at the Athens Olympic Stadium against OFI.

A fire also broke out in one of the offices of the stadium. Eleven people were injured in clashes between fans and police, with eight arrests being made.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw and OFI advanced to the next round of the Greek Cup, along with Ethnikos, Panathinaikos, PAOK, Iraklis, Yiannena, Larissa and Panionios.

Olympiakos, however, continue to do well in the league, holding on to first place with 21 points after a 3-1 victory against Larissa in Patras as Olympiakos' home ground was being penalised for the trouble caused by fans during the OFI Cup match.

POLAND

BARAN SOLD TO GREECE

POLAND'S winter break is on and there will be little action until the league recommences on March 12.

The second-half of the season then runs to June 21, by which time Messrs Lazarek and Robson will have a better idea of their Italia '90 chances.

Before the Elite Class gets underway, the two-legged cup semi-finals take place, or rather the first legs do.

On March 5, GKS Katowice receive Legia and Ruch Chorzow face Jagiellonia Bialystok. The returns are scheduled for ten days later and the Final for June 24.

Gornik have not been wary of Greeks bringing gifts! The result is the sale to Larissa of Greece of Krzysztof Baran, their 28- year-old midfielder or forward for 115,000 US dollars.

Gornik also receive, at Larissa's expense, a ten-day training stay in Greece for their first team squad.

His experience will be a loss. Baran was previously with Gwardia and LKS and, up to the beginning of last year, had six caps.

On December 1, 34-year-old Wlodzimierz Mazur, a former Zaglebie Sosnowiec coach, died.

He was a member of the 1978 World Cup squad in Argentina and gained 21 caps, scoring three goals.

Between 1973 and 1983, he played 282 league matches, scoring 79 goals. In recent times, he had been training his home club in Upper Silesia.

'Andi' Rudy, as he will doubtless be known in the West, and the most expensive footballer to be transferred within Poland — when he left Slask Wroclaw for GKS Katowice for the equivalent of £80,000 in zlotys — continues to make the news.

Monaco could now be his goal when he resurfaces. The Polish FA have suspended him for five years for defecting from the team after the friendly with Italy.

As in the case of Knoflicek and Kubik, such happenings dent World Cup and European Championship hopes of the homeland and perhaps it is time for a new formula to be found.

On the international front, it has been a mixed year. Ten matches were played, six won — five consecutively — two drawn with defeats suffered in Moscow and Dublin.

Lazarek's problem is the lack of forward power. In 1988, he tested 33 players as against 44 in 1987.

The blend did not seem quite right when the team just managed to take the two points from the home tie with Albania but he has until May to experiment further before Sweden are tackled away.

On a less serious but historically important note, a friendly took place in Krakow as it has every year since 1921.

Five-times Polish champions Cracovia played their reserves and 3,000 spectators turned up.

The famous club currently lead their section of Division Three and are hoping for better times ahead.

Joel Corminboeuf . . . Switzerland's goalkeeper

THREE FOREIGNERS PER TEAM ON WAY

SWITZERLAND

by Arthur Rotmil

NOW it is official — Swiss football will allow three foreigners per team as from next season.

Altogether, five players who do not have Swiss nationality can be fielded at the same time.

There are, in fact, four such categories — a "genuine" foreigner; a so-called "Grenzganger", a player who lives within six miles of the Swiss border (instead of 12 miles as at present); a so-called "Football Swiss", meaning players who have been in the country for five years; footballers born in Switzerland but of foreign parents.

Divided

Opinions are divided about the value of such players. The majority view is expressed by Lausanne's manager and former international Umberto Barberis, who asks: "How many foreigners have enriched Swiss football?

"Hardly half of them are better than their Swiss team-mates."

Of course, Barberis, himself of Italian extraction, is right. There are too many mediocre imports in the Swiss First Division and that includes some over the hill stars such as the ageing Italians Tardelli and Antognoni.

In the final round of the initial phase of the championship, Lucerne drew 0-0 at champions Neuchatel Xamax and retained the lead.

Both Xamax and Servette made it (just!) into the eight-team championship pool, which will resume on March 19.

But Aarau, Lausanne, St Gallen and Lugano will play-off against relegation with 12 clubs from the two Second Divisions (East and West) promoted to the second pool and hoping to gain the four places in the upper sphere.

Gates were down compared to last season. The average was 6,910 as against 7,420. The total loss was 67,350 or 6.9 per cent.

Undoubtedly, the drop of interest was caused by the early determined placings in the table.

Xamax were the most popular club, attracting an average attendance of 9,490 per home and away matches.

ZAPF

THERE was no reprieve for Bernd Stange and his assistant Harald Irmscher after East Germany's 3-1 defeat in Turkey.

Within days of the loss of two important World Cup points, the Presidium of the 'DF-V der DDR' had met and announced that both gentlemen were being relieved of their duties at once and would be found employment elsewhere.

The same communique congratulated the league leaders Dynamo Dresden on reaching the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup and the under-16 side on eliminating Northern Ireland over two matches to reach the Finals of the European Youth Championship.

These can be seen to be the only two real successes of the autumn term and there was criticism of the attitude of the A international squad and of the performances of club sides, Dresden apart, in European competition.

Stange's successor is former international Manfred Zapf, one-time captain of Magdeburg and in recent years, the wearer of two hats, that of FA assistant secretary and director of coaching.

He looks likely to be in the nature of a no-nonsense national team boss, who will have the assistance of two coaches, still to be nominated.

All plans for December and January, when the national squad normally travelled abroad to set up a training camp and friendlies, were cancelled.

There is clearly going to be some rethinking and a new plan drawn before the Turks come to play the next World Cup qualifier, probably in Karl-Marx-Stadt, on April 12.

Two weeks later, the GDR are away to the USSR and a month further on, Austria are the guests in Leipzig.

Four points from these three ties is probably the minimum to put the holed ship back on course for Italia '90, as only one home match remains — with the Soviets — after the Austrian game.

It is unlikely that any of the 'Team of the Autumn' will be missing from the spring selection.

In goal, Aue's Weissflog has relegated former team captain Rene Mueller to second place and the Lok keeper has not been a regular in the 'Aufgebot' in recent months.

Stahmann was the journalists' choice at the back while in front of the mighty man from Magdeburg, Kreer (Lok), Lindner (Lok) and Doeschner (Dresden) got the vote.

Pilz (Dresden), Sammer (Dresden) and Steinmann (FC Karl-Marx- Stadt) were the midfielders, and Kirsten (Dresden), Marschall (Lok) and Thom (BFC Dynamo) the forwards selected.

The latter's club, winners of the double six months ago, is poorly represented and the capital's ten-times running champions look unlikely to be able to recover from the drubbing handed out by Werder in Bremen, or to be able to pull back Dynamo Dresden's nine-point

CALL-UP

EAST GERMANY . . . by BOB VAUGHAN

lead at the halfway mark.

The 1-0 away loss to Hansa Rostock before the break in the championship was the last straw.

A full Ostsestadion saw Hansa take a 32nd minute lead through Babendererde but it was a struggle and perhaps Jarohs was lucky to stay on the pitch.

Referee Busshardt had his work cut out but the Hansa tactics paid off and after a series of losses at the hands of BFC, they could celebrate the end of the first half of the campaign with two hard won points and third place in the table.

At its foot, Sachsenring Zwickau and 1.FC Union Berlin look to be candidates for the drop, the former after one year's return to the Oberliga.

Likely contenders to replace Juergen Croy's old side are their Cup conquerors Dynamo Fuerstenwalde or Vorwaerts Frankfurt, who lead Group A (North) of the Liga.

In the southern section B, Fortschritt Bischofswerda from Saxony have a one-point advantage over Wismut Gera with Stahl Riesa the next challengers.

The UEFA Cup draw for the quarter-finals means a visit to Bucharest, a pinnacle of European club football this year, for the Dynamoes.

This is as far as the Saxons have ever gone in any of the European Cups and team manager Eduard Geyer is not disappointed by what came out of the hat.

Preparation

He is optimistic while remaining cautious and will be on his Balkan travels to see Victoria in action before the tie's away leg.

This may be difficult in view of the break but preparation has been thorough at the Dynamo Stadion for the Aberdeen, Waregem and Roma games and doubtless it will be for the visit to, and of, Victoria.

Club chairman Alfons Saupe is also not underestimating any team which has got this far while skipper Pilz would have preferred opposition about which he knows something.

Nevertheless, with a full house of 36,000 guaranteed for the return leg and having only conceded two goals in the previous three away UEFA matches, Dynamo must fancy their chances on March 15.

The respective forward power of Dynamo and Victoria suggests a forecast of about a two-goal win for Geyer's men but it is idle to speculate, especially where the 'Wimbledon of Rumania' is concerned.

Back on the Oberliga front, the experts are analysing the 1988/89 first half season.

The 14 clubs used an average of 18.78 players in their 13 matches. Penultimate Union tried 22, fellow sufferers Erfurt 21, and Zwickau used two less but only one more than leaders Dynamo Dresden.

Sachsenring did, however, have the highest number of debutants on their return from the Liga to senior status.

Certainly, in the Trade Union Cup, the lack of experience told — 332 substitutions were made by managers in the 91 league matches to date.

Only two red cards were shown but the number of yellows was as alarming in the GDR — 314 — as sendings-off were across the border in Czechoslovakia.

Only one player, Halata of Lok, managed five goals in one game — against Sachsenring Zwickau.

After losing their first six games, Udo Schmuck's team managed six points from the next seven but he feels that if his players could just show more confidence, they could get out of trouble.

Union chief Karsten Heine , also looking likely for the drop, was of a similar view when interviewed and likened his club's position to that of Lok earlier in the season.

Juergen Bogs admitted that both individual and collective performances of his Dynamoes had been poor and said fourth place in the table is a false one for a team with so much potential.

Many silly points had been given away at home and the Bremen battering had left its mark.

On another note, it was 'auf wiedersehen' to a man who can claim to be one of the real successes of recent seasons in GDR football, 'Adi' Prokop. His time was up with the end of 1988.

The 'Wee Whistler' from Erfurt took his last game when BFC Dynamo visited 1.FC Union in the Berlin derby Cup quarter-final at the Alte Foersterei.

Prokop controlled 284 Oberliga matches and had followed Rudi Glockner, who retired in 1976, onto the FIFA and UEFA lists as the country's premier referee.

It was a position he held until earlier this year when Siegfried Kirschen was appointed for the European Championship, producing a very tidy job at Stuttgart when the Republic of Ireland saw off England.

Prokop will not be lost to football in East Germany. He is already deputy chairman of the Referees Committee, where he will continue to work under Glockner.

His career has been an exceptional one since he started 'blowing' in 1958. He went on to the Oberliga list in 1969, became a FIFA referee in 1974, was chosen for the 1978 and 1982 World Cups and for the European Championships in Italy in 1980 and France in 1984.

He was appointed for the 1976 Olympics and for 27 internationals; 60 European Cup matches started with a blast from Prokop and they included Super Cup, UEFA and Cup Winners' Cup Finals.

But his whole career started by chance. The 19-year-old Prokop was training as an industrial salesman with an enterprise in Thuringia where a referees' course happened to be running.

He never looked back, though he carried on playing when not whistling, in the local league with Traktor Schlotheim.

PSV EINDHOVEN LOSE THEIR GRIP

HOLLAND

by SIMON KUPER

PSV EINDHOVEN are losing their hold on the Dutch league. Having won the championship in the last three years and seeming almost certain to keep it this year, they now have Ajax treading on their heels.

On the weekend that PSV lost the World Club Cup to Nacional, Ajax thrashed Den Bosch 5-1 to move within a point of PSV, who have one game in hand.

Ajax have completely recovered from their terrible start to the season.

In October, the Amsterdammers were in 13th place but then Spitz Kohn and Louis Van Gaal became joint managers in place of Kurt Linder.

Linder preached defensive football and the 4-4-2 system but Kohn and Van Gaal have brought back the creative, attacking 4-3-3 game which characterised Ajax under Johann Cruyff.

In the last few weeks, Ajax have beaten both PSV and Feyenoord.

Revived

Kohn and Van Gaal form a good pair. Kohn is experienced and calm, Van Gaal self-assertive and arrogant, but both are intelligent men.

They have revived players like Dennis Bergkamp, Mark Verkuyl and even the 37-year-old Arnold Muhren.

PSV, by contrast, are faltering a bit. They have only reached last year's form once this season, when they beat Porto 5-0 in the European Cup.

With the league only halfway through, PSV have already lost three matches. In the last three years, the club hasn't lost more than twice in a whole season!

Soren Lerby and Eric Gerets are clearly growing old and several players have been injured.

Good news is the rise of young players like Jules Ellerman and Anton Janssen, who should both be playing for Holland within the next couple of years.

And the Brazilian international Romario has already proved his worth for PSV with several well-taken goals in his first few matches.

PSV recently signed another foreigner in Czech international Jozsef Chovanec. It is possible that the Dutch government will forbid the transfer as Chovanec is from outside the EEC.

PSV argue that the Czech is such an outstanding player that he should be allowed into Holland.

Chovanec is a libero from Sparta Prague, who defends and attacks with equal skill. PSV have signed him because they expect that Ronald Koeman will leave them at the end of this season.

The biggest clubs in southern Europe are chasing the man with the hardest shot in the world — Koeman can choose between Juventus, Roma, Napoli, Barcelona and Real Madrid.

The player himself insists that he may well stay in Eindhoven but it is difficult to believe him.

Feyenoord Rotterdam are still trying to catch up with PSV. The Rotterdammers had been playing well but recently lost 6-1 to Twente Enschede, the club's biggest defeat in years.

Feyenoord are more successful off the field. Hans Kraay, the inventive general manager, has raised £1 million from local businesses to buy new players and there is more money in prospect.

Last month, Feyenoord sold striker Dave Mitchell to Chelsea. Mitchell is an Australian international short on skill but full of energy, who had become a reserve after Peter Houtman returned to Feyenoord.

Keje Molenaar has also left Feyenoord, moving to ambitious but lowly SVV Schiedam.

Molenaar is an unusual man. He is 30-years-old, an expert defensive midfielder, a former Dutch international and also a part-time law student.

Molenaar has strong views and a complete contempt for all football managers.

In November, he quarreled with Feyenoord's manager Rob Jacobs and immediately afterwards reported sick and stayed at home.

When asked what his illness was, Molenaar said that he had a "football neurosis".

He continued: "Whenever I'm at Feyenoord, something in my brain goes wrong," he explained.

Feyenoord, infuriated by Molenaar's irony, let him go to SVV, who have also signed Chris Verkaik, Haarlem's experienced centre- back.

Other major transfers involve strikers, with Englishman Rob MacDonald joining Newcastle United.

Unhappy

MacDonald belonged to PSV but was no longer wanted. A big, fast centre-forward, MacDonald arrived in Holland some years ago and did well at a succession of clubs.

He also had short spells in Belgium and Portugal. Now 29, he is going back to the North East where he grew up.

Eric Willaarts, another striker, has returned to Utrecht after an unhappy 18 months in Germany with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Willaarts is already 27 but he has only been playing professional football since 1986.

In 1986/87, his only season with Utrecht, he surprised everybody by scoring 25 times.

His eye for goal attracted Borussia but they never gave him a fair chance. He showed the Germans their mistake when he scored twice in his first match back in Utrecht.

RUMANIA

STEAUA AND DINAMO LEVEL

RUMANIA'S Autumn round ended with champions Steaua and Cup winners Dinamo level on 37 points but with the latter ahead on goal difference, 72-16 as against 62-17.

Even fellow European quarter-finalists Victoria do not look likely to be able to challenge the runaway pair, being 14 points behind after 17 matches.

Nevertheless, Victoria have played their part in making it the best-ever autumn for the country's football fans.

The club was not founded until 1971 but within 14 seasons, had climbed their way to the top flight in record time.

Their first season in Divize A brought an admirable 12th placing and the following season, UEFA Cup entry thanks to coming third.

In 1987-88, Victoria put out Larnaca in the first round but found Dynamo Tbilisi too strong in the second.

Another third placing put Victoria in the UEFA Cup again this season and, to date, Sliema Wanderers, Dynamo Minsk and, in early December, Turun Palloseura have been accounted for. Victoria, like any successful cup side, have had their slice of good fortune here and there but in all three ties, were the better side overall.

Qualification was admittedly obtained on the away goals rule but in the return legs with Minsk and Turun, Victoria had decided the tie well before the end.

Manager Florim Halagian is a hard task master, demanding discipline, fitness and tactical awareness from his squad.

His own record is an impressive one. As a player, he had a successful career with Stiinta Bucharest, Arges Pitesti and, briefly, Dinamo.

Subsequently, he managed Arges for 13 years and twice won the championship, in 1972 and 1979.

He also did well in spells at FC Olt, Uni Craiova and Steaua.

This season, Halagian took over Victoria in tandem with Gheorghe Timar, whose concept is similar and who can also point to no little success, including coaching Victoria's under-21 team to the junior championship.

Together, they have made changes they agreed to be necessary to continue the Victoria success story.

Near veterans Deno and Dumitru were released and the young talents encouraged.

Goalkeeper Nitu has become the number two in the Rumanian national squad, Zare has gained seven caps as a libero and Topolinschi, Mirea and Solomon have earned Olympic selection.

The best known "Victorian" is Marcel Coras, the joint top- scorer this autumn with 21.

He began his career with VT Arad, then in Divize A, moved on to Politechnica Iasi and later joined Sportul Studentesc in Bucharest.

Now he stands level with Mateut of Dinamo on 20 goals after scoring three in Victoria's last game.

To date, Coras has played 25 times for Rumania. The six foot three striker blossomed during the European Championships in France and shared the goalscoring with Ladislau Boloni.

Steaua veteran Tudorel Stoica

FRA HAT

THOUGH Matra Racing staged something of a revival at the time of the Great (Madly Unnecessary) Winter Break, their win over Montpellier was achieved without their famous Uruguayan forward Enzo Francescoli, who went home to help Uruguay beat Peru and complain again about how much he hated it in Paris.

It now looks as if the club will let him go at the end of this season, probably to Roma, where he desperately wants to be transferred.

The Eternal City has a vast attraction for him, and Rome are bound to be looking for new foreigners after all the disappointments this season with their two Brazilians, Renato and Andrade.

"If I have to tell the truth," says Francescoli, who has hardly minced his words in the past, "I cannot stand it any more here.

"I do not yet know what the intentions of my directors are, but luckily, our relations have improved. Up to a short time ago they did not even give me the time of day, just because I had expressed the wish to leave.

"Now everything has changed. The manager has gone, the sponsors have gone, and there is a strange air of 'demobilisation.'

"We are among the last teams in the Championship, and even if I predict a revival, the panorama is pretty desolate.

"This is not my kind of football. The traditional coldness of the French has in our case become a more total indifference.

"The fans hardly come to watch us. There are moments in which one feels the distance of South America, and even of Italy. Football must be passion, entertainment, the very opposite of what we have here.

"If Roma really want me, they will have to hurry up. I know that there are other Italian teams that want to sign me. And I know that by the end of February, the situation must be cleared up.

"My manager, Casal, is assessing the various possibilities. But the decisive word must be spoken by the directors of Racing. I have faith, I believe they will let me go."

Since they now seem quite capable of winning well without him, it looks much more likely.

A surprise was the announcement by his 32 year-old fellow Uruguayan Ruben Umpierrez that he would not be coming back to Matra Racing after the winter break; that he intended to join Boca Juniors of Buenos Aires.

HAPPEL TURNS TIDE FOR TIROL

AUSTRIA . . . by ARTHUR ROTMIL

TWELVE years have passed since FC Tirol, then known as SSW Innsbruck, were last hailed as the so-called "autumn" or "winter" champions in Austria.

But in the second year of Ernst Happel's management, the Tyroleans are at the top where the experts had expected them to be.

In the last match before the start of the three-month winter break, Happel's team confirmed in the 2-0 win over Sturm Graz that they are the best away side in the First Division.

Tirol's international striker Peter Pacult scored both goals for his team, who thus claimed 14 points from their 11 away games.

This, too, is proof that Happel's methods have vastly improved the stamina and physical engagement of his charges.

Some experts are, however, still moaning that the Innsbrucker outfit should have been topping the table much earlier.

On March 11, the play-offs will begin with the eight top teams taking for the first time half the points total with them.

Sadly, the famous record capped Soviet star Oleg Blokhin and his team Vorwarts Steyr didn't make it. They, together with Austria Klagenfurt, Sturm Graz and Linzer ASK will play for promotion and against relegation.

Surprisingly, record champions and title holders Rapid could only finish fifth.

Gates have tumbled dramatically at the famous club's ground to about 1,000 per game and the new signing, Icelandic international Torfasson has been just as unsuccessful as the new team manager Yugoslav Vlatko Markovic, who replaced his compatriot Otto Baric.

The slump has come with the release of the once lethal finisher Hans Krankl and the refusal to re-engage him.

But with Second Division Austria Salzburg, Krankl drew 9,000 fans to the last match, whilst all the other First Division games together attracted only 8,000!

In his two matches for the Salzburger, the veteran scored two goals.

ICESCOLI ES PARIS

FRANCE . . . BY ANDRE DUCLOS

This after coming on as substitute in Racing's last game 20 minutes from the end, to score a magnificent goal.

How, though, can he sign for Boca, people in Paris asked, when the transfer lists were officially closed in Argentina?

Umpierrez, a popular figure, had been expected to see out his playing days with the Parisian club.

It is ten years since he came into French football, originally with Nancy when he played side by side with Michel Platini.

Energetic, whole hearted and a frequent scorer, he is just the sort of club man Racing cannot do without.

But they also have to do without Aziz Bouderbala for four whole months. Originally, after running amok in the match at Lille the Moroccan attacker (in every sense of the word alas) had been suspended for six months.

Elegant

But then on appeal it was decided that though he had struck an opponent, he had not struck the referee, merely menaced him. Bouderbala, an elegant and gifted player, seemed the last man to have lost his rag in such an outrageous way.

But this season, everything seems to have gone wrong at Matra. Except some recent results.

The Montpellier centre half, Brazilian international Julio Cesar, a 1986 World Cup star, did not figure in their last two League matches.

Montpellier in fact are furious with him. They say his form is a parody of what he showed for them last season, that he has been unsettled by attempts to buy him by Real Madrid.

And it's absurd of Real, they say, to show an interest, since he is already European Cup tied this season, having played for Montpellier in the UEFA Cup.

So long as Cesar's thoughts are elsewhere, says Montpellier's M. Nicollin, they don't want to know about him and will be happy to see him leave.

From Auxerre comes the strange but encouraging story of Cocard, their Under 21 international, an attacking midfielder of great flair and drive, who was immensely successful against the Yugoslav Under 21 team, when he was played wide on the left.

The odd thing about Cocard is that no major club was interested in signing the young Norman, until at long last, when he was languishing in Third Division football, his father and sister got on the phone and called club after club.

Several showed an interest, notably Auxerre, who usually go in for developing players through their own youth scheme, and Paris Saint Germain, then still under the aegis of Gerard Houllier.

Young Cocard liked the idea of fashionable Paris S-G better, and seemed set to join them.

But wily old Roux, who has been managing Auxerre since before the flood, got him down there and talked at him to such purpose that Cocard disappointed Houllier, deciding to sign for Auxerre.

There, he admits that competition for places has been always intense, but he is making a name for himself and is a bright hope now of French football; which, goodness knows, needs a few of them.

When the Championship has resumed, prospects look quite exciting.

There is equality in the air; suitably enough in France! Paris Saint Germain and Auxerre may have been setting the hot pace, but their latest results suggest they are far from invincible.

Auxerre took an awful 3-0 tumble at Cannes in their last match, where the Algerian Mengual, in spanking form, got two of the goals, one from the penalty spot.

Luckily for Paris S-G, their Argentine international winger, Gabriel Calderon, was in deadly form at free kicks that evening, giving them a 1-0 win at poor unlucky Caen, Graham Rix's team, which they hardly deserved.

But keep an eye on Monaco and Glenn Hoddle; winners in Paris against S-G!

Glenn Hoddle . . . missed Monaco's 3-1 friendly win at Tottenham because of injury.

HUNGARY

MTK STEER CLEAR OF FERENCVAROS

THE departure of national manager Gyorgy Mezey and continuing speculation concerning the match-fixing scandals have all but overshadowed league action in Hungary.

In the race for the league title, Ferencvaros have made up ground but MTK still lead.

It remains to be seen what will become of the championship once police enquiries are complete but the rumbling on of the scandal does little to help top football and certainly not the national side.

With no further interest in the European Cup, the World Cup has assumed even greater importance, which should be a spur to those chosen by journalists for the team of the season.

In 4-2-4 formation, they are Gelei (Vaci Izzo), the son of a former national keeper — Sallai (Honved), in disgrace but polling very high, Pinter (FTC), Csepregi (ZTE), Bordas (Raba ETO) — T.Nagy (PMSC), Csucsanszky (Videoton), Kincses (FTC) — Kiprich (SC Tatabanya), a likely departee for Italy, Balog (MTK-VM) and Jovan (Videoton).

Also, off the field, there was a surprise for Kozma of Dozsa who finds himself on the way to Bordeaux.

He joined the north Budapest club six years ago, since when he has progressed through the under-21, Olympic and national squads to gain 11 full caps.

Basically a defender, Kozma likes to be given a go in attack, free kicks being his speciality.

Aime Jacquest — the Girondins team manager who is under some pressure following a narrow elimination from the UEFA Cup by Napoli after putting out Kozma's club but more so in view of what officials feel is an untenable 14th placing in the French league — was keen to sign Kozma.

He feels the player can become a top European star with the right preparation and training but may find the agreed date of July 1 a little late.

The negotiations were long but cordial, Girondins are happy they have a pearl and Dozsa content with the £450,000 fee for a five-year contract.

Dozsa are spending part of the break in France, presumably at Girondins' expense, while Kozma settles down to studying the French language while 'en stage' with the Hungarian World Cup squad.

The contract contains a clause which frees him for important international matches, including some friendlies.

BOB VAUGHAN

Emilio Butragueno . . . Spain's mixed-up marksman.

SPAIN . . . by KEIR RADNEDGE

THE departure of Ron Atkinson as Atletico Madrid coach after 94 days probably made bigger headlines in England than it did in Spain.

After all, in Spain the fans have long since grown accustomed to the volatile style of Atletico president Jesus Gil.

More fascinating for the afficionados has been the unusually high level of speculation about an unusually large number of star names across the capital at Real Madrid.

If all the rumours were to be believed then, at the end of the season . . .

* Coach Leo Beenhakker will be going to Milan or Manchester United;
* Star striker Emilio Butragueno will be going to Italy or Barcelona;
* Right back Chendo will be going to Barcelona;
* Midfielder Michel will be following Beenhakker to Milan, where he will replace Dutchman Frank Rijkaard; and
* Controversial Bernd Schuster will be sold back to West Germany unless Espanol Barcelona can back their rumoured 'offer' with a lot more money.

Since unbeaten Madrid sit commandingly astride the first division leadership with a two-point advantage over Barcelona there are not as many problems of morale and team spirit as the media try to make out.

Also, clearly, there is no smoke without fire. The truth lies somewhere in the middle.

It is true that the contract of Dutch coach Beenhakker expires at the end of the season.

Generally he is considered to have been a success but his continuance depends to a large extent on whether Madrid regain, after 23 years, the Champions' Cup.

They will not underestimate the quarter-final challenge of PSV Eindhoven, as they did last year.

Also, Beenhakker and his players believe that the unfortunate injury to Dutch keeper Hans Van Breukelen plus the unsettling effect provoked by discussion of Ronald Koeman's impending departure, will work against PSV.

Either way, Beenhakker will not long be out of work. If Madrid do not retain him plenty of Italian clubs admire him . . . and then there is always the possibility that the Dutch federation, if events turn against them in the World Cup qualifiers, will be looking for a successor to Thys Libregts.

Then there is Butragueno, who spent the early part of the season looking as if he were still suffering the hangover left by his personal and national disappointment at the European championship finals.

Just before Christmas Beenhakker even dropped him — action which appears to have stung Butragueno back towards something like his best.

The irony is that he has looked much sharper playing for his country

FOREIGNERS FACE AXE NEXT SEASON

PORTUGAL . . . by KEIR RADNEDGE

THE professional game in Portugal has been given a sensational shot in the arm by its own federation.

And that is amazing because Portuguese football has, for years, been held back by political posturing and policies of eternal compromise.

Now that has gone out of the window with a decision that, from next season, first division teams will be allowed to register only a maximum of six foreigners and play a maximum of four of them in the league line-up at any one time. At present there are no restrictions.

Currently there is a staggering total of 177 foreigners in the first division, 110 of whom are Brazilians.

Indeed, no fewer than eight clubs could line up a team of eleven imported players. Only Feirense, the second division (central) leaders boast a squad consisting only of home-born Portuguese.

Now, better late than never, both federation and clubs have woken up to the damage done to the national team.

Also, they recognised that the approach of 1992 demanded import rationalisation to help tread the tightrope strung by UEFA across the chasm of European Community free labour legislation.

The most notable feature of the new rule is that Brazilians will be classed as foreigners.

Currently Portuguese football follows to the letter of the law the treaty which provides Brazilians with full local citizenship rights.

The damage this has caused, and the reasons, were graphically explained recently by Mario Marinho.

A World Cup centre back for Brazil in 1974, Marinho later played for Barcelona before turning to coaching.

He worked with success at Boavista before returning home for domestic reasons last year to take on Santos.

Marinho turned down an offer to come back to Portugal with FC Porto after the sacking as coach of Quinito.

But he retains great interest and effection for the Portuguese game and keeps a close eye on developments.

Marinho says: "The problem is that Brazilians footballers are so cheap. A reasonable player costs only around £30,000 or £40,000.

"Now, in a country where five teams get relegated, there is great pressure on struggling managers to show the fans they are 'doing something'.

"So they buy a few more Brazilians. And I'm sorry to say that some agents take advantage of that.

"It's not unusual for clubs to buy players whom they have never seen in action.

"The small clubs prefer to work this system because they believe it is cheaper and easier than going through all the hassle of setting up a proper youth scheme.

"That's why an 'old man' like Rui Jordao has been back in the Portuguese national team this season — because the clubs are so clogged up with foreign players the Portuguese youngsters can't get through."

Marinho's words present a strong case for UEFA officials concerned to keep the EEC at bay.

A transfer free-for-all could blight western European football into the sort of stagnation experienced by Portugal.

Standards

In fact, given the depth of the import crisis in Portugal, it is remarkable that clubs such as Benfica and FC Porto have maintained such high standards in European competition.

But then, they can afford a better class of foreigner!

In Benfica's case that includes the Nigerian, Ricky Owubokiri, who recovered fitness in time to score six goals in a 14-1 cup thrashing of non-league Riachense.

There was an upset, however, for last season's beaten finalists, Vitoria Guimaraes, who crashed 2-1 to third division giant-killers Vasco da Gama.

Not that Benfica have had it all their own way. Successive league defeats by Boavista and Penafiel should have shaken their grip on the league leadership.

Fortunately Porto, two points behind, matched them blunder for blunder — culminating in a 4-1 derby defeat by Boavista.

The first Boavista score was an own goal by Porto's Bandeirinha.

The others fell to Boavista's very own Brazilian colony (naturally!). Nelson Bertollazzi scored two and Eloi one.

But even that was nothing compared with the embarrassment suffered by Benfica when it was revealed that forward Hernani had presented a dope test sample contaminated with cocaine after the 2-0 win over neighbours Sporting in December.

It just so happens that this match had been used as the climax to a government-backed anti-drugs campaign.

Benfica's players, Hernani included, wore shirts emblazoned with the slogan: 'Say No To Drugs.'

Hernani faces a six-month suspension, but he will no doubt be back — which is more than can be said for Sporting's veteran goalkeeper, Victor Damas.

He has retired after playing 743 matches for the club both sides of a spell in Spain with Santander.

Clubs who have been ringing the coaching changes include Boavista (Raul Aguas replacing Pepe), Academica Viseu (Fernando Cabrita replacing Carlos Alhinho) and Fafe (Manuel de Oliveira replacing Jose Rachao, who was immediately appointed by Varzim).

MADRID UNREST

this season — against both Irelands, for example — than for his club.

Butragueno dismisses talk of transfers. He is a Madrid boy with a long contract.

But fullback Chendo is a case apart. For one reason or another there has been a cold war in existence between Chendo and club president Ramon Mendoza which Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez is using to his own advantage.

Nunez, who comes up for re-election in June, needs to upgrade his controversial image.

There is nothing the Catalan fans love more than to taunt Madrid — which Nunez has been doing by dropping all sorts of hints about the riches in store if Chendo should move to Nou Camp at the season's end.

As for Michel and Schuster, there have been attempts to create 'rivalry' between them ever since the West German signed last summer.

In fact, the Madridista who should have felt the most upset was Ricardo Gallego, who was the man forced out by Schuster's arrival.

But Gallego reminded everyone of his value when he popped up with a last-minute winner in a 2-1 win over Malaga.

That victory was the meat in a dramatic week sandwiching three rounds of action.

It began with Madrid recovering from a goal down to beat bottom-of-the-table Elche 4-2 in the Estadio Bernabeu.

Hugo Sanchez grabbed two goals in the closing minutes to create a misleading scoreline.

The little Mexican thus took his total for the season to 14 goals, now 'only' four behind Atletico Madrid's Baltazar. Their duel for the top scorer's Trofeo Pichichi will be one of the highlights of springtime soccer in Spain.

Then came victory over Malaga followed by a 1-1 draw in Valencia — Madrid's promising young substitute Aldana grabbing the equaliser with his first touch of the ball.

Barcelona, two points behind, continue to pursue everything and everyone.

Johan Cruyff has signed to stay two more seasons as coach. He will receive the same basic pay of £600,000 a season plus an increase in line with the cost of living.

When asked if he felt he was worth those fantastic sums Cruyff answered: "If I win trophies and make this club successful then I am worth it."

Whether he will be given time is another matter. But if money can ensure success then Cruyff is home and dry — particularly now PSV's Koeman is joining Barsa at the end of the season in preference to Real Madrid or Juventus.

Cruyff's confirmation as coach has played a decisive role in Koeman's decision — though Barsa may need to sell advertisement space around the pitch for the first time to maintain both Cruyff and Koeman.

As for Atletico, what is there to be said that hasn't been said already?

Atkinson had raised them since October from 18th in the first division to third, albeit ten points behind neighbours and leaders Real.

But Atkinson's lack of command of Spanish appears to have left him vulnerable to some of the machinations among the backroom technical staff.

While he was back in England for a few days, president Gil terminated his contract and appointed No 2 Colin Addison as Atkinson's successor.

Addison, embarrassed, denied any involvement in Atkinson's departure.

Gil, meanwhile, stormed on in highly critical terms about Atkinson. But then, Atkinson only followed down a road trod a year ago by the great Cesar Luis Menotti.

Being sacked by Atletico is becoming almost a badge of honour!

Reputations, in football, are easily disturbed. Rinat Dasayev is all too well aware of it.

He arrived in Spain to a mob welcome at Seville airport. Now, just over two months later, Dasayev is definitely not flavour of the month.

He conceded 11 goals in his first seven games, topping it all off with a bizarre own goal against struggling Logrones.

Dasayev gathered a 'soft' short from Adolfo Munoz then lost control of the ball as he went to clear and punched it, instead, back into his own net.

It was the only goal and presented Logrones with their first victory in 13 games.

TRANSFERS: Espanol have signed the Kiev and Soviet midfielder Vasily Rats for £400,000 . . . Zaragoza have signed Bulgarian right wing Bozhidar Iskrenov as deputy for injured compatriot Nasko Sirakov . . . and Atletico Madrid have bought Argentine international Luis Islas but cannot find anyone willing to take the controversial goalkeeper on loan until the end of the season.

FOGGY MILAN

ITALY . . . by KEIR RADNEDGE

THE cold winds of doubt have changed direction in northern Italy, blowing a typical San Siro fog of uncertainty clear away from Internazionale to envelop, instead, neighbours and champions Milan.

Arrigo Sacchi, for months the cleancut hero, the good guy representative of all the positive new developments in Calcio, is suddenly in question as Milan's league lapses are thrown into stark relief by Inter's runaway success topped off by a 1-0 defeat in the local derby.

Low-key

A few months ago Italian football was in self-congratulatory mood — patting itself on the back for the potential evident at the European championship and looking forward confidently to a new era conducted by the likes of Sacchi and low-key national boss Azeglio Vicini.

Now the doubts are creeping in.

Milan have not had the best of luck. They sit in midtable partly because of an appalling and disruptive string of injuries, with former European Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit the most serious casualty.

Basically, Gullit has been paying the price for carrying a leg injury through the European championships.

He did not have the necessary rest during the summer and reached the end of the year having started only a handful of league matches.

Other injuries forced Sacchi to gamble on young players and positional and tactical experiments. That meant defeats which, in turn, sapped confidence.

Not just in the team but in the boardroom.

President Silvio Berlusconi has not invested more than £20million in Milan to see the team totter along in midtable.

While he deserves much of the credit for fishing Sacchi out of obscure Parma, Berlusconi does not always see eye-to-eye with his coach.

The release of Argentine Claudio Borghi was a step Berlusconi took, on Sacchi's advice, reluctantly.

Similarly with the transfer to Roma of midfielder Daniele Massaro whose consistency would, as things turned out, have proved invaluable.

Delight with Marco Van Basten's election as European Footballer of the Year was tempered by concern that the third Dutchman, Frank Rijkaard, has yet to reach his best form.

Rijkaard blames that on the positional switches enforced by other people's injuries.

His Dutch European title-winning boss, Rinus Michels, thinks Rijkaard is best deployed using his power, skill and creative talents out of deep defence.

But Sacchi, realistically, accepts that to shackle the likes of Rijkaard at the back in Calcio would be a waste of money and ability.

Stability

Hopefully Gullit's return to fitness will provide the stability Rijkaard needs to succeed.

Certainly Gullit was cautiously pleased with his form — plus a goal — in a 4-0 victory over Como which restored Milan to winning ways.

Ironically, however, the match was overshadowed that same day by the Match of the Season (thus far). This was the visit of Inter to second-placed Napoli — and a dreary match it was, as well, right out of the Italian goalless draw textbook.

Inter coach Giovanni Trapattoni set out his stall for a point and got it.

Napoli were not impressed. Diego Maradona, playing despite back trouble, said sarcastically: "Now we have seen Inter in action you must admit they have the sort of luck teams need to win championships."

Maradona for once was helpless. So was team-mate Careca, the league's leading scorer with ten goals, but who was unable to celebrate his new contract by adding to that total.

Careca said: "I don't think Inter are that impressive. They came to do a job and got a point.

"But they won't have the courage to play that way when we go to San Siro. They will have to come out, in front of their own fans. The race is not over yet."

Careca believes that Napoli can turn the tables in the same way Bayern Munich did in the Estadio Meazza in that remarkable UEFA Cup turnaround in December.

While Napoli are delighted with Careca, not all the imports are getting along so well.

Topsy-turvy Roma have already decided to sell Andrade back to Brazil, probably in exchange for his former Flamengo team-mate, Jorginho.

West Germany's Rudi Voller scored the 87th-minute goal with which Roma beat Napoli.

But then they back down to earth with a bump the following week in a 1-0 defeat by Lazio — even though their neighbours were without Nelson Gutierrez, who needed knee surgery after being injured just before Christmas helping Uruguay beat Peru 3-0 in a Montevideo friendly.

Alexander Zavarov continues to make impressive progress at Juventus but Portugal's Rui Barros is no longer a fixture.

BOBBY ROBSON may have fond memories of Greece because it was in that country that he recorded his first victory as England boss in November, 1982.

The 3-0 victory, with goals by Tony Woodcock (two) and Sammy Lee, continued the impressive record that Alf Ramsey's England had begun in 1971.

In that year, England met Greece twice — at Wembley and in Athens — and won both, 3-0 and 2-0 respectively.

Robson, however, will not take pleasure in recalling the last time the two countries faced each other.

The England manager "leaned towards my most adventurous side" and then saw that same team give one of the poorest performances of his reign.

With the Wembley crowd chanting "rubbish" and "boring", England and Greece played out an inept goalless draw.

The pressure on Robson to get a positive result and for England to give a good account of themselves following disappointing performances against Denmark, Sweden and Saudi Arabia is immense.

A press campaign against Robson has, undoubtedly, gone over the top and bordered on character assassination.

The "Robson Out" campaign has been self-defeating since the Football Association has dug in its heels and decided to stand by the manager come what may. Not that that will relieve the critics if England slip up against Greece.

It was conceivable that the two countries may have clashed in the European Championships but for the contrary decision-making of UEFA over the Holland versus Cyprus encounter.

In footballing terms, it would have been a travesty if the Dutch, with their superior technique and skill, had been denied their rightful place.

Greece do not have an illustrious football history in the international arena and can only boast one European Championship Finals appearance in 1980.

Under Altekas Panagulias, Greece finished bottom of their group with one point earned from a 0-0 draw with West Germany.

Greek football is beset with problems which include the ugly spectre of hooliganism. In comparision to the Greek strain, the English hooligan seems mild in comparison.

Fans have been known to build blockades and violently protest about Greek FA decisions.

Inside the grounds, violence is expressive as witnessed by the UEFA under-21 final with France. This is in addition to the weekly fighting — and sometimes killings — that take place between factions of fans.

Bobby Robson will recall the intimidation his squad had to endure during a training session in Salonica in 1982. Hundreds of local youths gathered to menace the England squad.

Not surprisingly, the Greek FA are one of the associations who support English clubs' return to European competition. They believe that their position does not allow them to take a holier than thou attitude.

Robson's chances of getting a positive result have been hindered by Independent Television's decision to show live the Manchester United versus Tottenham Hotspur match three days before the Greek game.

The match not only affects England's preparations but also that of Northern Ireland and Scotland, who have important World Cup qualifying matches against Spain and Cyprus respectively.

CUP FEVER IS HIGH

ENGLAND

by Derick Allsop

ENGLISH football turns into any New Year with the wide-eyed innocence and freshness of spring lambs.

Expectations are high, imaginations rampant. They call it Cup fever, they call it the magic of the Cup. Different it certainly is. It's beguiling and it's wholesome.

There is something peculiarly English in this love affair with domestic cup competition. On the continent, the Cup is generally regarded as merely a useful means of reaching a European contest.

Even then, the nature of qualification tends to make the European Cup Winners' Cup the weakest of the three competitions. Its prestige is often diluted.

The English football man recognises the supreme status of the league championship, of course

For all Manchester United's Cup success in the past dozen years, they will never appease their enormous following until they bring the title back to Old Trafford. Their last triumph was 1967 in the days of Charlton, Law and Best.

Arsenal led the way into 1989 and few doubt they have the credentials to go on and at last wrench the championship from the clutches of Merseyside.

But in the Cup, all the credentials in the world count for nothing. The FA Cup, the oldest and most romantic of all soccer competitions, has no respect for tradition, pedigree or class.

It is the great democracy. Big or small, you face instant glory or oblivion. And of all FA Cup days, nothing quite surpasses third round day for its range of interest and incident. Third round day in 1989 — January 7 — did not disappoint.

It was actually a third round weekend, starting with a mid-day kick-off on the Saturday for Crewe Alexandra and Aston Villa through to the televised West Ham United versus Arsenal clash on the Sunday afternoon.

This is the stage where the First and Second Division clubs enter for the first time and mix it with the survivors from the Third and Fourth, as well as those from outside the league.

Up and down the country, tiny clubs set out on that famous Wembley trail as far back as last summer.

The 32 ties produced handsome gate receipts, rousing football and some sensational results to fulfil a quota of the fantasies that are the very essence of the FA Cup.

Crewe, the Fourth Division leaders, set the tempo by going into a 2-0 half-time lead against Villa, of the First. What's more, they earned that advantage with composed, creative football.

Alas for Crewe, there was no fairytale ending. Villa pulled themselves together and, with considerable relief, made the fourth round with a 3-2 win.

For some of the big boys, however, there was no reprieve. For Coventry City, winners of the Cup two years ago, that meant the most humiliating defeat of all, away to Sutton United of the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Coventry, fifth in Division One and 5-0 destroyers of Sheffield Wednesday in a league match only five days earlier, were outwitted by the part-timers' carefully rehearsed corner kick routines and stumbled out of the competition 2-1.

An early second-half equaliser dug Coventry the escape tunnel they needed but Sutton went ahead again and then survived a late bombardment to take their place in FA Cup history.

Grimsby Town, fifth from bottom of the Fourth Division, came from behind to win 2-1 away to First Division Middlesbrough while Bradford City, conquerors of Everton in the Littlewoods Cup, completed a distinguished double by knocking out Tottenham 1-0.

Manchester United were held 0-0 at Old Trafford by Queens Park Rangers and their disappointment turned to anxiety when captain Bryan Robson was carried off unconscious in the last minute.

Robson hurled himself in typically determined pursuit of a winner and his header was only just off target. He crashed to the ground and stayed there.

He was in danger of choking until his tongue was released. He also sustained head and shoulder injuries, and a cut mouth.

He was taken to hospital but fears of serious damage and another long lay-off were eased by initial examinations, much to the

SHAKY RANGERS

SCOTLAND . . . by GLENN GIBBONS

RANGERS' long-held grip on the lead in Scotland's Premier Division has, in the last few weeks, frequently seemed as suspect as a limp handshake.

Since the beginning of December, there is little doubt that the soundest, most consistent and convincing form in the country has been shown by Dundee United.

Yet the division of the top two sides in the betting on the championship would suggest that the Tannadice team should be regarded as a temporary itch rather than a virulent menace. Rangers retain their status as 2-1 on favourites, while United (with a bit of searching) can be had as high as 5-1 against.

Even Celtic, the struggling champions, are rated to have as good a chance of taking the title as Jim McLean's team.

Considering results — and the manner of their achievement over these weeks — none of this makes sense.

United went through December with four victories from four matches.

These included wins over Rangers and Celtic, achievements which brought McLean a unanimous vote from the panel of journalists electing the Tartan Special Manager of the Month.

The first match in 1989 brought a 1-1 draw with Aberdeen at Tannadice, but the disappointment of that result — and it was a disappointment as they had led early in the game — was washed away by two successive away wins, by 1-0 over Dundee in the city derby and 5-0 at Hamilton. In the same period, Rangers achieved two outstanding results, beating Celtic 4-1 at Ibrox on January 3 and winning 2-1 at Aberdeen 12 days later.

Sandwiched between those red letter days was an appalling 2-1 defeat at Motherwell which prompted manager Graeme Souness to go public with his condemnation of his players for their complacency.

They had also demonstrated this trait in struggling to beat Hamilton 1-0 just 12 days earlier.

At the end of the hectic festive period, they remained one point ahead of United and five clear of Celtic and Aberdeen.

Another demanding round of matches looms and the next month will surely tell us a great deal about the likely destination of the Scottish league championship trophy.

The smart punters will take the big price about United.

Sutton United's Matthew Hanlan holds the boot he wore to score his side's second and winning goal against Coventry City in the third round of the FA Cup. Tony Rains (left) scored the first goal in their 2-1 triumph

relief of England as well as United.

Port Vale flexed their muscles the next day to take on Norwich City, leaders of the First Division for much of the season, and went into a first-half lead.

But Norwich came back in some style and Andy Townsend scored two spectacular goals as his side went through 3-1. Their prize? A home tie against Sutton!

The final shots of an explosive weekend enabled Arsenal to recover from a 2-0 deficit to draw 2-2 at Upton Park.

Twenty-year-old striker Paul Merson scored both goals to keep George Graham's side in the hunt for a league and FA Cup double.

Arsenal climbed above Norwich to head the league table on the last day of 1988. They won 3-0 away to Aston Villa as the East Anglians slipped to yet another home draw — their sixth — against Middlesbrough.

Norwich drew again at Queens Park Rangers on the Monday while Arsenal beat Tottenham 2-0 in the North London derby and opened up a two-point gap.

In third place, a further five points behind, were Millwall. They kept up their dogged challenge with a 1-0 home win against Charlton.

Twenty-four hours later, Liverpool jumped from seventh to fourth with an uneasy 1-0 defeat of Villa at Anfield. They were, no doubt, still a little shell-shocked from their visit to Old Trafford two days earlier.

Manchester United have made a habit of raising their game against Liverpool and that Sunday afternoon, before a television audience, they came from a goal behind with a remarkable and devastating three-goal onslaught.

United responded immediately to John Barnes' opener and Brian McClair's athletic equaliser turned the course of the match.

Before Liverpool could recover, the magnificent Mark Hughes put United ahead and then 20-year-old Russell Beardsmore completed a fine performance with the third.

NORTHERN IRELAND . . . by NICK GIBBS

CASH CRISIS

THE implications of Northern Ireland's 4-0 defeat against Spain in Seville goes beyond the likelihood that Billy Bingham's side will not qualify for the 1990 World Cup Finals.

There are financial consequences which will affect the whole of Irish football.

The demise of the British Championship in 1984 when Northern Ireland were the competition's final winners invited disaster for the Irish — and the Welsh — as they would lose much-needed revenue from their matches with England and Scotland.

Northern Ireland were able to offset that bleak prospect by virtue of qualifying for both the 1982 and 1986 World Cups and by the good fortune of being drawn with England in both their qualifying groups for the Mexico World Cup and the 1988 European Championships.

The success of the national team on the international stage also reaped monetary benefits for Irish league clubs.

Each club received between £8,000 and £12,000 from both of Northern Ireland's trips to Spain '82 and Mexico '86.

The IFA estimate a loss of £750,000 if Northern Ireland cannot overcome the enormous mountain and earn a trip to Italy in 18 months time.

It was mooted that a sponsor could be induced to back the national squad but as Harry Cavan, the IFA president, astutely observed: "It's very difficult trying to attract anyone when the team is not successful."

Against Spain, Billy Bingham fielded an inexperienced side with only Donaghy, McClelland and McCreery having a realistic idea of what to expect in the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium.

Spain were in brilliant form and completely over-ran the young Irish side straight from the kick-off.

The Irish aggravated their cause by scoring two own goals — attributed to Rogan and McDonald — and conceding a penalty, albeit a dubious one, when McClelland was adjudged to have fouled Beguiristain.

To complete a miserable evening, McDonald was also shown the yellow card and, therefore, misses the return fixture at Windsor Park on February 8.

The defeat leaves Northern Ireland with three points from four games. If Billy Bingham's side are to retain any hope of qualifying, then a revenge victory is a necessity in the home match with Spain.

Meanwhile, on the home front, it is Linfield who head the Smirnoff Irish League at the midway point. The Windsor Park club have been battling neck and neck with defending champions Glentoran throughout the first-half of the season.

It was a similar story in 1987-88 but this time, it seems Linfield have gained an important edge after the Christmas and New Year games. While Linfield romped to a 5-1 victory at Distillery, Glentoran struggled to a 2-0 win over Newry Town.

The first matches of the new year brought another victory for Roy Coyle's men at home to Glenavon while Glentoran were surprisingly beaten by Portadown.

The top two met at The Oval in the big Belfast derby on January 7. In a cracking match, Linfield edged home 3-2 winners and, in so doing, opened a six-point gap at the top of the table.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Bohemians sell ground to Irish FA

by Sean Creedon

DALYMOUNT PARK, the home ground of Bohemians, has been bought by the Football Association of Ireland and will stage its 80th senior international on the seventh of this month when the Republic play France in a friendly.

The Bohemians members voted to accept the FAI's offer, which was less than they received from various building companies.

The FAI will take charge of the old ground next season and lease it back to Bohemians.

The FAI, who have a contract with the Irish Rugby Football Union for the use of Lansdowne Road for World Cup games, intended to play friendlies, youth and schoolboy games at Dalymount.

Their long-term plan is to convert the Phibsboro venue into an all-seater stadium.

So, the famous 'Dalymount Roar' will be in fine voice on the evening of Tuesday the seventh when Jack Charlton gets his 'Boys in Green' together again, this time to face Michel Platini's new- look French team.

Jack's depleted team were well beaten in Seville last November and he will be hoping that Liam Brady, Paul McGrath, Ronnie Whelan and Kevin Sheedy are all fit to resume.

The defeat in Spain clearly showed that Eire don't have an abundance of reserve talent and hopefully Charlton will have his regular midfielders available.

Eamon O'Keeffe, who lost his job as player-manager of Cork City, has now joined St Patrick's Athletic as a player only.

The move to Dublin is seen as a significant move for O'Keeffe, who is tipped to get the recently advertised job of Development Officer for the League of Ireland.

Meanwhile, Noel O'Mahony has got the Cork job.

Another English-born manager to quit in Eire was Peter Thomas, who was in his first season in charge of Waterford United.

The former club goalkeeper has been replaced by ex-Evertonian Andy King, who now has the difficult task of keeping the Blues in the Eire Premier Division.

The top game in the fourth round of this year's FAI Cup will be the clash of Bohemians and crowd pullers Derry City.

Cup holders Dundalk are away to non-league Brendanville while cup specialists Shamrock Rovers are also away to a non-league side — Culdaff from Donegal.

THE Football Association of Ireland, in conjunction with RTE, have produced a 90-minute video of the Republic's great performance in the 1988 European Championship Finals.

Jack Charlton gives his forthright views on why the Republic did so well.

Copies can be purchased from: The Commercial Department, FAI, 80 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

SOVIETS SET FOR DALLAS

THREE Soviet teams will take part in this year's Dallas Cup, North America's major international youth tournament.

Organiser Ron Griffith has completed negotiations with Soviet sides Tallinn Lovid, Zalgiris and the world famous Dynamo Kiev, who will now represent their country in Dallas Cup X between March 19 and 26.

Griffith met the Tallinn Lovid (or Lions) team in Sweden last summer and persuaded them to enter Dallas Cup X.

And during the European Championship Final between the USSR and Holland in Munich, Griffith met Soviet reporters, with the result that the stories filed persuaded both Zalgiris — from Vilnius in Lithuania — and Dynamo Kiev to make plans for Dallas.

"The interesting thing is that all three teams want to stay in the homes of Dallas area families, which makes the trip even more worthwhile," commented Griffith.

Interest in the Estonian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian communities in the USA has been enormous.

Standard

"I saw Tallinn fans waving their blue, black and white flag at the Gothia Cup, something they were banned from doing for 40 years until May 1988," said Griffith, who has travelled more than 130,000 miles and visited 25 countries since Dallas Cup IX to recruit teams.

The under-19 boys division has been expanded to cope with 32 teams but almost 50 sides had to be turned down by tournament director Bill Stroube in that age group alone.

One of the outstanding features of the Dallas Cup is the standard of refereeing.

In 1988, 12 FIFA officials were among those who took charge of matches.

Regulars such as Abraham Klein of Israel, Marco Antonio Dorantes of Mexico, Malcolm Moffatt of Northern Ireland and Bob Valentine of Scotland expect to be joined by Chile's Gaston Castro, Brazil's Emidio de Mesquita and French pair Michel Vautrot and Gerard Biguet.

The 32 sides competing in this year's under-19 boys section include: Tahuichi Aguilera, Santa Crus, Bolivia; Malmo FF, Sweden; Dynamo Kiev, USSR; Tallinn Lovid, USSR; Zalgiris, USSR; OSC Bremerhaven, West Germany; FC Monthey, Switzerland; Hertfordshire Select, England; Royal Navy, Portsmouth, England; NSL Select, Toronto, Canada; Manitoba Select, Winnipeg, Canada; Flamengo, Brazil (or Nacional, Uruguay); Sydney Croatia, Australia; Mexico national team; Austin Capitols, Texas, USA; Nomads, La Jolla, USA; East/West SC, Ohio, USA; USA under-16.5 national team; Hotspur 70, USA; 20. Minnesota Select, USA; Westchester United, New Rochelle, New York, USA; Vegas FC, Las Vegas, USA.

COLLEGE BOYS HAVE NOWHERE AFTER SCHOOL

from PAUL GARDNER

THIS is the way it is, all over the world. The talented youngster is spotted early, taken on as an amateur by a pro club, signs as a pro when the permitted age is reached, then progresses to first team regular, to first division games and on to international fame and fortune. Right?

By and large, yes. But not here in the United States of America. For a start, we don't have a pro league.

But even if we did, the chances are high that the traditional method of producing players would not be followed.

To understand why, you have to look at other American progressional sports and, of all things, at the American educational system.

Take basketball and American football — two highly successful pro sports where players can get rich in a hurry (average salary in the National Football League is $230,000, over twice that in basketball).

Yet neither sport has clubs that run youth teams. Players first make their name with their local high school.

During the final year at school, they are bombarded with the most suffocating sort of attention from college coaches. They are offered all sorts of inducements to go to this college or that university.

There are certain things that a college can legally offer — the most obvious being a four-year scholarship that pays for virtually all of the boy's education — tuition fees, room and board — something that, depending on the school, can be worth from $40,000 to $60,000 over the four-year undergraduate period.

Not to be sniffed at — but competition between schools for the top high-school talent is cut-throat, and there have been — and continue to be — numerous scandals involving illegal inducements to teenagers.

These may take the form of under-the-table money payments, or a free car, or special trips — even jobs for the player's parents or girlfriend.

The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), which supervises all this activity, has a monster rule book that details what is legal and what is not, and has a special enforcement staff.

This intense interest in getting — by hook or by crook — the best young players, is partly due to wanting one's college to have a winning team.

But money has a lot to do with it — a top, winning, football or basketball team can make a lot of money for a college.

So the colleges, ostensibly bastions of amateurism and education, are very much into the promotion of pro sports.

The top sports' colleges spend huge sums on their programmes, their coaches earn more than their professors.

Good young players, then, do not go straight from high school to a pro club. There is that four-year stint playing college ball and earning a degree, between the ages of 18 and 22.

In some cases, the athletes (who may not really be "college material" in the first place) never do get their degree — but they go on to earn so much money as a pro that it doesn't really matter.

Others fail at both — they are the evidence that the system is utterly cynical.

But others succeed at academics and sports, the American ideal of the intelligent athlete.

Sports, then, is a way of getting a free education. It is this path that American soccer is following.

It can be argued that this is the only path available to young Americans at the moment, given the absence of a pro league. But even when the defunct North American Soccer League (NASL) was operating, most of the best young players were still going straight from high school to college.

Given the structure of American society, and the importance of a college education, it is unrealistic to imagine any change in that mentality — at least until soccer can demonstrate that it can offer huge salaries at the pro level.

We are a long way away from that.

College soccer has grown explosively over the past 20 years. In 1969, the NCAA listed 291 colleges as playing the sport.

In 1979 there were 403, and this year's figure is 544. This cannot be put down to any great efforts on the part of the colleges.

It is simply a reflection of the huge growth in youth soccer throughout the country, with the subsequent increase in the number of boys looking for colleges that will give them a soccer scholarship.

So the number of scholarships has gone up dramatically. Recruiting of high school players is now widespread — though without the overheated pressures of the other sports.

There is simply not enough money in soccer to make it that important.

The better schools offer excellent facilities — top class fields, stadiums, training equipment.

Example: anyone playing club soccer in Manhatten will have to get used to muddy, rock-strewn fields, with no changing rooms and no accommodation for spectators.

In the whole of Manhatten there is only one good, grass soccer field, sitting in the middle of a neat little stadium. It belongs to Columbia University.

The colleges also open up the possibility for a youngster to become that most attractive of American dream creations — the campus sport hero.

That is the current situation for 18-year-old soccer players here. It is college soccer, or nothing.

In any case, who on earth would advise a boy to turn down the opportunity of a free college education?

But from the strictly soccer point of view it is decidedly unsatisfactory. College may be good for the colleges, it may be good for the boys from the education point of view — but it is highly questionable whether it can ever develop first-class players.

For so much of the college soccer scene is not what it seems. The season — in the autumn — is ridiculously short, usually no more than 20 games.

The calibre of the opposition carries wildly from very good to laughable. And the sport is enveloped in an impenetrable mass of rules and regulations that make it extremely difficult for players (and coaches for that matter) to participate in club soccer.

The rules of college soccer are not the FIFA rules. Indeed, college soccer is not even under the control of the United States Soccer Federation.

It is run by the NCAA. It has its own rule book that includes such things as free substitution, plus a requirement that an injured player who is treated on the field, must

CAYMAN ISLANDS ENTER WORLD CUP

From BRIAN HOMEWOOD

ANY country with less than 20,000 people would have to be pretty brave — or daft — to enter the World Cup. Even if they were pitted against one of FIFA's smallest members, it would be a bit like a seven stone weakling stepping into the ring to fight Mike Tyson.

But the Cayman Islands — population 21,374 — are set on entering the 1994 qualifying competition.

They had better be prepared for some unfortunate results because, compared to them, even Antigua (population 80,000), the smallest nation to have entered the 1990 competition, look formidable.

And the likes of the Netherlands Antilles (260,000), Luxemburg (350,000) and Iceland (250,000) are over ten times as big population wise.

The islanders, though, are not so pessimistic. They claim to have at least one player of English first division standard and quite a few youngsters who could at least give some of the smaller Caribbean nations a run for their money.

In addition, football is by far the number one sport on the islands and the quality is growing all the time.

The country, which consists of three islands situated to the west of Jamaica and south of Cuba, is a member of the Caribbean Football Federation and is putting in an application for full FIFA membership.

It has a well-organised league — more than can be said for some of FIFA's members — but a few things may have to change if the application is accepted.

The biggest problem is lack of facilities. The "national stadium", for instance, consists of a pitch surrounded by grass banks which are cut into "terraces".

The capacity is roughly 1,500 and there are no changing rooms. Apart from that, the country has just one other proper pitch.

Then there are some rather strange rules. No match, for example, will start if it's raining!

If the match begins in dry weather and the heavens open halfway through, the match continues as normal.

But even the Cup Final, which attracts a capacity crowd at the national stadium (seven per cent of the island's population) will be postponed if it is so much as drizzling at kick-off time.

Also, a player is offside at the time he receives the ball and not at the time it's played, while any player who swears at himself — after hoofing the ball over the top of an open goal from three yards or heading past his own keeper, for example — is almost certain to be sent off.

The game is organised by the 15-year-old Cayman Islands Football Association, which runs a league of 15 teams divided into two divisions.

The current First Division sides are Ramoon Rangers, SR Strikers, East End, Scholars, Cayman National Bank, McAlpine and Police.

The champions are Ramoon Rangers, so called because eight of their players come from the same Ramoon family.

The team includes the country's best player, 23-year-old centre forward Lee Ramoon, who won a soccer scholarship to the United States, then had trials with Celtic, Manchester United and Oldham Athletic and only failed to be taken on because he was "too old".

While the Cayman Islands are small and problem-free — they have a racially mixed population without any tension and no unemployment — football is not particularly peaceful.

Players are indisciplined and attacks on referees are frequent.

On one occasion, a player was sent off in the first-half, went home, fetched a knife and came back in the second-half to attack the referee, who fled in a car!

Matches are also centres for gambling, supposedly illegal, and Brazilian-style off-the-field disputes sometimes take place between clubs.

Despite all this, football is flourishing. Although the country has never played an official international, teams frequently go on tours abroad and there are plenty of enthusiastic 15 and 16-year-olds playing.

True, some of the rules seem somewhat strange. But look at the things Joao Havelange and Co. come up with to decide the world's foremost competition — qualification through being one of the "best second-placed teams" and penalty shoot-outs to decide vital matches.

Some people find that very strange indeed.

then leave the game (to be re-inserted later if he recovers).

It is still common to see college games being handled by two referees with no linesmen. (One must make the point that some of the college rules are better than the FIFA version — eg the use of an official timekeeper, and the requirement that all players must wear small numbers on the fronts of their shirts.)

The free substitution rule — not used anywhere else in the world — is a special disaster.

It allows large teams (of up to 20 players) to constantly shuttle players in and out — players who have little real idea of how to play soccer, whose job is simply to run and run until they're tired, when they can come off and have a rest while other runners fill in for them.

This rule, and the mentality that it engenders, has led to certain colleges having successful records with teams of manifestly untalented players.

The better college coaches — a select group who understand the sport and are concerned for its future — would like to get that substitution rule changed.

But it is not that easy — because the awful truth is that college soccer is not, in the final analysis, run by soccer people.

The NCAA — the governing body — is dominated by people with basketball and, mostly, football backgrounds.

They may not be openly hostile to soccer, but they sure as hell are not going to go out of their way to accommodate it.

They do not understand — indeed are not particularly interested in — the finer points of what makes a good soccer team.

Massive substitution is the practice in all other American sports — why should soccer be any different?

There is also the argument that college soccer is primarily an educational and social experience — that it is the fob of the colleges to let as many people as possible play.

FIFA — which not long ago ordered the English FA to bring the English Schools FA under its wing — has not made a move to make sure that college soccer enters the fold.

No doubt they are aware that such an attempt would be a fiasco.

The USSF — which would have to implement the move — would be quickly taken to court by the NCAA, and the NCAA would win the case laughing.

American law does not lend much support to attempts to impose conditions.

Then there is the matter of how representative college soccer is.

The answer to that one is — not very. The college system — the educational system, that is — is inevitably angled towards the middle classes and upwards.

It caters, as a matter of course, to those from backgrounds that emphasise the importance of education.

It is not the natural habitat of the inner city kids. By inner city kids, one means nowadays blacks and hispanics.

This is doubly unfortunate. Firstly, because the minority groups need — much more than the middle classes — the help of an athletic scholarship.

And secondly, because it reinforces a trend that is already far too strong in American soccer — that of creating a white, middle class sport.

There is little doubt that any United States national team would win the award for the most educated team. Most of its players would either already possess, or be close to getting, university degrees.

The same would apply to any gathering of American coaches. Unfortunately,there is no known connection between such honours and being proficient at soccer.

Just as the connection between soccer and the fans who attend college games is difficult to fathom, there are a few colleges — eg the Universities of Indiana and Conneticut — where crowds of several thousand are a regular feature.

But how many of these people are soccer fans, and how many are simply fans of their college, merely cheering for a win for their alma mater?

For the forseeable future, the American player will be a college product with a background, a character and a psyche very much different from that of soccer players from other countries.

This is the undeniable fact behind the resistance of the current US soccer leaders to employing a foreign coach.

It is felt that, to understand the special needs and talents of the American player, only an American coach — preferably one with college experience — will do.

Such is the thinking that has led to the appointment of Bob Gansler as the new coach of the United States national team.

Born in Hungary in 1941, Gansler came to the USA at the age 11, and went through the American high school and college systems.

He played briefly for the US in the late 1960's as a central defender.

His coaching experience was taken in high school and college teams, and the US national u-20 side. It is not a career that has recorded any outstanding successes (unless the Wisconsin State high school championship or the US national amateur title come under that heading).

But Gansler comes into a situation almost guaranteed to make him successful.

The USA (under previous coach Lothar Osiander) has reached the final five regional qualifiers for World Cup '90.

Two of that final five will qualify for Italy. And the three regional teams that traditionally have given the USA most problems — Mexico, Canada and Honduras — have already been eliminated.

So — for the first time since 1950 — it looks as though the USA will qualify for the World Cup Finals.

For Gansler not to lead his team to Italy under these almost ideal conditions is unthinkable.

TAYLOR QUITS TOP JOB

CANADA . . .

by COLIN JOSE

CANADIAN national team boss Tony Taylor has resigned to become coach of the Toronto Blizzard of the Canadian Soccer League.

There was some speculation that Taylor had been asked to resign following Canada's early elimination from the 1990 World Cup at the hands of Guatemala.

However, Canadian Soccer Association executive director Kevin Pipe said that Taylor had the full backing of the CSA and that his decision to leave came as something of a surprise to the organisation.

Former national team player Bobby Lenarduzzi will assume the role of national team coach for the next few months. Then when the Canadian Soccer League season opens he will return to his club to coach the Vancouver 86ers.

At that time Lenarduzzi's place will be taken by assistant coach, Bruce Twamley. Both Lenarduzzi and Twamley have Football League experience as players, Lenarduzzi with Reading and Twamley with Ipswich Town.

Meanwhile, the case involving four Canadian players accused of taking bribes during the 1986 Merlion Cup Tournament in Singapore has been dismissed by the Canadian courts.

The matter has landed back in the lap of the Canadian Soccer Association, who will now have to decide on a course of action.

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCT

OBITUARY — ENEAS DE GOLVEIA DE CAMARDO: Former Portuguesa, Palmeiras and Bologna centre-forward, has died in Rio de Janeiro aged 34. Eneas began with Portuguesa, played for the Brazil youth team at Cannes in 1971, then won the Sao Paulo state title with Portuguesa two years later. He just missed a place in Brazil's squad for both the 1974 and 1978 World Cups and was sold to Bologna in 1980 after the Italians reopened their borders. He failed to settle, however, scoring only three goals in 20 games and was sold home to Palmeiras a year later. After four seasons there he slipped down the ladder with Juventude, Quinidici de Piricicaba and Desportiva Ferroviaria. A year ago he joined third division Central De Cotia as player-manager and they had just earned promotion when, last August, Eneas was seriously injured in a car crash. After lying in a coma for four months, he died on December 26.

JOAO LYRA FILHO: Brazilian member of FIFA's legal committee, has died aged 83. Filho was a past president of the Brazilian Sports Ministry and was a driving force behind the construction of the Maracana stadium for the 1950 World Cup finals.

ALEX HASTINGS: Former captain of Sunderland, manager of Kilmarnock and president of the South Australia federation, has died in Adelaide aged 76.

KAROLY LAKAT: Former Hungarian international but even better known as a coach, has died in Gyor aged 68. Lakat, a history graduate who lectured in Hungarian literature, also played between 1943 and 1952 for Gyor, Szeged and Ferencvaros and was capped 13 times by Hungary. He was later a first division coach for a record 651 matches, was briefly national coach in 1979-80 and managed Hungary to Olympic gold in 1964 and 1968. Lakat was coach of Ferencvaros when they lost to Leeds in the 1968 Fairs' Cup Final.

HENRIQUE MEDINA: The famous Portuguese artist, who was one of the founders of the Salgueiros club, died in Oporto aged 87.

LAZSLO RUDAI: Former Hungarian international, has died in Conakry, Guinea, aged 63. Rudai had latterly held posts as national manager of Guinea and trainer of top club Hafia.

VINCENT SATTLER: One of the bright newcomers in French football, has died in a traffic accident in Strasbourg, aged 19. Sattler, who made his league debut in the second division as a 17-year-old with Amiens, was brought into the first division this season with Strasbourg.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

ACTION: Nacional of Uruguay win the World Club Cup by defeating PSV Eindhoven 7-6 on penalties after a 2-2 extra time draw in Tokyo. The score was 1-1 after 90 minutes . . . in the World Cup qualifiers, Yugoslavia easily beat Cyprus 4-0 but Hungary struggle for a 2-2 draw away to Malta. In the Oceania zone New Zealand beat Taiwan 4-0 in Wellington.

HOLLAND: The Dutch second division game between Den Haag and RBC is abandoned after 16 minutes after a bomb threat. Before the match three people had been injured, one seriously, by an explosion outside the stadium. The bomb call during the game is taken seriously and the ground cleared. Police search the stadium but nothing is found. In the first division there is a shock for Feyenoord, thrashed 6-1 away by Twente Enschede.

ITALY: Inter make up for their midweek calamity in the UEFA Cup, by defeating champions and neighbours Milan 1-0. Inter, with 17 points from nine games, are two points clear of Napoli, who win 1-0 at Verona.

SPAIN: Real Madrid recover from a violent two weeks to win 2-0 away to Cadiz and re-establish a two-point lead at the top over Barcelona, who are surprisingly beaten 3-2 in Bilbao.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

ITALY: Arrigo Sacchi, coach of Milan, is under pressure for the first time since his arrival in the summer of 1987. President Berlusconi is privately considering renewing Sacchi's contract only if Milan win the Champions' Cup. Otherwise aide Fabio Capello could be promoted.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA announce that the 1988 Fair Play award is going to Werder Bremen forward Frank Ordenewitz, who volunteered that he handled in the penalty area in a 2-0 defeat by Koln, even though the referee had been unsighted.

WEST GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt sack Pal Csernai, their second coaching dismissal of the season.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Defectors Lubos Kubik and Ivo Knoflicek complete the severance of all links with their homeland when they sign, hardly surprisingly, for English first division club Derby — whose chairman is another Czech-born star (in his own right), Robert Maxwell. Kubik and Knoflicek have been lying low in southern Spain but must wait until completion of FIFA's statutory one-year 'asylum suspension' before playing for Derby.

ITALY: Torino sack Gigi Radice and appoint former player Claudio Sala in his place as coach . . . a Turin court throws out a civil action launched by Italian journalists Oliviero Beha and Roberto Chiodi against FIFA president Joao Havelange, and against Piero Dardanello and Giacomo Mazzocchi, respectively editor and sports writer of the daily sports paper Tuttosport. Beha and Chiodi had alleged defamation in an article in Tuttosport on November 4, 1984. The subject was an inquiry into claims of bribery surrounding the 1982 World Cup tie between Italy and Cameroon. Havelange had been quoted in Tuttosport as saying: "This has all turned out to be nothing more than an invention by people in search of a sensation."

YUGOSLAVIA: Hajduk Split beat Subotica 1-0 to claim the full three points and pull level with Vojvodina at the top of the first division. Vojvodina need a penalty shoot-out to beat Sloboda in Tuzla, thus collecting two points.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

ACTION: New Zealand beat Taiwan 4-1 (for an 8-1 aggregate) and qualify for the second round of the Oceania World Cup qualifiers . . . South Korea beat China 2-1 after extra time in the semi-finals of the Asian Cup in Qatar . . . Uruguay beat Peru 3-0 in a Montevideo friendly thanks to two goals from Enzo Francescoli.

ENGLAND: England veteran Trevor Francis is appointed player-manager of Queen's Park Rangers in succession to Newcastle-bound Jim Smith. Francis gets the job even though former Tottenham boss Peter Shreeves had been promised a month's trial.

FRANCE: A shock for Paris Saint-Germain as they go down 2-0 at home to Monaco and are toppled from leadership of the first division. Relentless Auxerre beat Nantes 1-0 to overtake.

GREECE: More hooligan trouble. After a cup-tie between Olympiakos and OFI at the Olympic stadium ends in a 1-1 draw 11 policemen are hurt and eight fans are arrested. Inside the stadium 8,000 seats are ripped out causing damage estimated at £65,000. There is more hooligan trouble after the tie between AEK and Levadiakos at Nea Philadelphia. AEK win the match 1-0.

HOLLAND: New moves in the tax fraud inquiry into the transfer activities of the Amsterdam club. A total of £1.7million is alleged to have been 'diverted' through transfer deals involving a string of top names including Kieft, Lerby, Arnesen, Tahamata and Henning Jensen. The investigating judge announces that two former officials and one former player are being held. Former treasurer Lou Bartels is reported to be one of the officials, PSV Eindhoven's Danish star Soren Lerby the player.

ITALY: The financial decree releasing £220million for World Cup infrastructure work at last passes into law.

REP.IRELAND: The FA of Ireland buys Dalymount Park in Dublin from Bohemians for £600,000 — a wise investment, it seems — with some of their profits from the European championships.

YUGOSLAVIA: The league match between Partizan and bottom club Celik creates a Slav shoot-out record. After the two teams finish all-square at 2-2 Partizan win the penalty decider 11-10.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

ACTION: Saudi Arabia beat Iran in an Asian Cup semi-final in Qatar.

CHILE: Chile agree to play England and Scotland in the Rous Cup at Hampden and Wembley in May. Argentina and Spain had previously refused invitations.

HOLLAND: PSV's Denmark midfielder Soren Lerby is questioned for eight hours in connection with the tax fraud investigations engulfing his former club, Ajax Amsterdam. It is alleged that Lerby owes the taxman £300,000. Another former Ajax player, Piet Hamberg, is held in custody awaiting questioning. The prosecutor's office announces that the inquiries — now covering 1978 to 1984 — will be extended to cover the years up to 1987.

ITALY: Juventus surgeon Manlio Pizzetti advises the club that Michael Laudrup can carry on playing for the time being despite cartilage trouble.

PORTUGAL: Belenenses, John Mortimore's club, take Finnish striker Jari Rantanen on trial from Leicester.

SOVIET UNION: The federation decides, on the advice of national and Kiev boss Valeri Lobanovsky, that no western European offers should even be considered for Kiev stars Oleg Protasov and Alexei Mikhailichenko. This follows speculation that Juventus and Real Madrid were among hopeful Soviet

THE MONTH AHEAD: FEBRUARY

* = World Cup qualifier. U = European under-21 chp

1.2.89	Euro Supercup/1: Mechelen v PSV Eindhoven (Kirschen ref)
2.2.89	'Veterans World Cup' Final
3.2.89	Qatar v Oman*
3.2.89	Iraq v Jordan*
3.2.89	UAE v Kuwait*
7.2.89	N.Ireland v France/f
8.2.89	Northern Ireland v Spain*
8.2.89	Greece v England/f
9.2.89	Euro Supercup/2: PSV Eindhoven v Mechelen
10.2.89	Oman v Jordan*
10.2.89	Iraq v Qatar*
10.2.89	Pakistan v UAE*
10.2.89	Malta four-team semi-finals (with Denmark, Albania, Iceland)
11.2.89	(French league 2nd half starts)
12.2.89	Malta four-team final and play-off
14.2.89	U:Portugal v Belgium
15.2.89	Portugal v Belgium*
15.2.89	France v Hungary/f (Nimes)
20.2.89	Thailand v Bangladesh*
22.2.89	Italy v Denmark/f (Taranto)
23.2.89	Thailand v Iran*
26.2.89	Bangladesh v Iran*
28.2.89	Thailand v China*

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

ARD ROW NGLAND

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

suitors. Both have strong business links with the Soviet Union — Juventus via Fiat owner Gianni Agnelli, Madrid via their president Ramon Mendoza, who built his fortune on opening up trade links with the eastern bloc.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

ACTION: Egypt lose 3-1 in Cairo to Switzerland in a friendly.

BELGIUM: A Belgian court jails for 15 months the Italian Umberto Salussoglia, 25, convicted of acts of hooliganism on the night of the Heysel disaster. Salussoglia, who was originally sentenced to a two-year jail term in his absence, was arrested last year on the Austria-West German border.

HOLLAND: The KNVB confirm plans to introduce a membership card scheme from January 1 which will involve away matches for Ajax, Feyenoord, PSV, Utrecht and Den Haag.

SWITZERLAND: The draw takes place in Geneva for the quarter-finals of the three European Cups. Champions' Cup: IFK Gothenburg v Steaua Bucharest, Werder Bremen v Milan, PSV Eindhoven (holders) v Real Madrid, Monaco v Galatasaray. Cup-winners' Cup: Eintracht Frankfurt v Mechelen (holders), CSCA Sredets v Roda JC, Dinamo Bucharest v Sampdoria, Aarhus v Barcelona. UEFA Cup: Victoria Bucharest v Dresden, Stuttgart v Real Sociedad, Hearts v Bayern Munich, Juventus v Napoli. Ties to be played March 1 and 15 — although the Hearts v Bayern first leg is later brought forward to February 28 . . . UEFA's executive approves a recommendation that Sweden should stage the finals of the 1992 European championship. Spain's bid was rejected partly on the grounds that Barcelona would be staging the Olympics that year and it would be unfair for two major events to take place in one country. The decision appears certain to provoke trouble 'back home' for Spain's senior football diplomat, Pablo Porta, and for federation secretary Agustin Dominguez.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

ACTION: In the Asian Cup Iran take third place by defeating China 3-0 on penalties after a goalless draw in the the losers' play-off in Qatar.

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain go back to the top of the table on the last round of matches before the winter break. They win 1-0 away to Caen, thus overtaking Auxerre, who lose 3-0 at Cannes. Marseille beat Saint-Etienne 2-0 but remain five points further back.

HOLLAND: PSV midfielder Soren Lerby is released by police after being held for three days for questioning in connection with the Ajax tax fraud case. Also released is former director Ton Brandsteder.

SOVIET UNION: Soviet soccer is to import a Bulgarian. He is Teno Minchev, from Beroe Stara Zagora, who will play next season for Wings of the Soviet.

SWITZERLAND: Italy's soccer supremo Antonio Matarrese dominates discussions among the FIFA executive, complaining that there is too much generally on television in Europe and that there are too many inconsistencies in UEFA's disciplinary decisions.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

ACTION: Saudi Arabia beat South Korea 4-3 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the final of the Asian Cup in Qatar . . . Zambia beat Egypt 2-1 in an international friendly in Lusaka . . . in the first leg of the African Youth final Nigeria beat Mali 2-1. Both teams are already assured of their places in the World Youth Cup finals in Saudi Arabia.

HOLLAND: Hooligan trouble in Tilburg as 82 Ajax fans are arrested on their way to the game against Willem II. Of the arrested, 77 are held for travelling without rail tickets. One further arrest is for possession of a home-made fragmentation grenade. Ajax win the match 5-2 to stay in second place in the table, one point behind PSV Eindhoven, who win 3-1 in Utrecht. PSV leave out Lerby after his spell in police custody and owe victory to two goals in the last five minutes from Romario.

ITALY: Leaders Inter drop only their second point of the season as they are held 1-1 at home by Juventus, whose scorer is Soviet midfielder Alexander Zavarov. Napoli move within a point of Inter thanks to a 3-1 home win over Bologna in which Diego Maradona scores twice.

SPAIN: There are no first division matches because of the national team's preparations for the World Cup tie against Northern Ireland.

WEST GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt appoint Jorg Berger as their third coach of the season after Kalli Feldkamp and Pal Csernai. Berger has been coaching second division SC Freiburg who threaten all kinds of action until Frankfurt come up with an acceptable compensation offer. Frankfurt also settle severance terms of £20,000 with Csernai.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

ENGLAND: Tottenham sign a new three-year sponsorship deal with the brewers, Holsten, worth £1.1million . . . Sports Minister Colin Moynihan steps up the pressure over the introduction of identity cards by warning that the government will oppose an eventual return of clubs to European competition unless the game accepts his scheme. Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, counter-attacks by claiming that the scheme could cost the game between £59million and £72million.

HOLLAND: Now it is the turn of Adrie Van Eijden, the Ajax general manager, to be arrested by the fraud squad. Released, on condition that he makes no contact with any other suspects, is former Ajax president Ton Harmsen. The prosecutor's office announces that the inquiries relate to a series of player transfers, including those of the Austrian, Felix Gasselich (who joined Ajax from FK Austria) and the Dane, Henning Jensen (who joined Ajax from Real Madrid).

ITALY: Lazio's Uruguayan defender Nelson Gutierrez undergoes a knee operation in Rome. He was injured in Uruguay's recent 3-0 win over Peru.

SPAIN: Zaragoza's bid to sign Brazilian Mirandinha from Newcastle on loan until the end of the season is rejected by the English club. Zaragoza need a replacement for injured Bulgarian Nasko Sirakov. Now they are likely to return to Bulgaria in pursuit of Bozhidar Iskrenov . . . Espanol officials turn up in Austria to sign Kiev and Soviet Union midfielder Vasily Rats.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

AUSTRIA: Tomislav Ivkovic, Yugoslav national team goalkeeper of Wiener SK, signs to switch to Belgium's relegation-threatened Genk.

ENGLAND: Nine Opposition Labour MPs demand the dismissal of Sports Minister Colin Moynihan in the ongoing ID card row. Meanwhile police and football officials challenge the validity of new match-day arrest statistics . . . John Fashanu is banned for three matches and fined £2,000 for his part in the tunnel fracas with Viv Anderson after Wimbledon's League Cup-tie against Manchester United at Plough Lane. Anderson is banned for one game and fined £750.

HUNGARY: A new shock for Hungarian soccer as Gyorgy Mezey quits as national manager, complaining that he cannot work with many of his best players ruled out because of the match-fixing scandal.

SCOTLAND: Jim McLean, controversial Dundee United manager, is also appointed chairman of the club . . . a septic elbow forces Jim Leighton to pull out of the friendly international against Italy in two days' time.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen report that their Champions' Cup quarter-final first leg against Milan is already a 38,980 sell-out, bringing record club receipts of £300,000.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

ACTION: Spain easily beat Northern Ireland 4-0 in their World Cup qualifier in Seville. To add to Irish disappointment Anton Rogan and Alan McDonald contribute own goals while John McClelland's foul on Quique concedes a penalty which Michel converts . . . in an under-21 friendly Italy beat Malta 8-0.

BRAZIL: National team manager Carlos Alberto da Silva is suspended for 50 days by the CBF for attacking referee Oliveira Filho after a 1-1 draw between Carlos Alberto's club side, Cruzeiro, and Botafogo. Alberto lost his cool because the referee allowed Botafogo to equalise with a direct free kick taken while the Cruzeiro goalkeeper was still organising his 'wall'.

FRANCE: Matra Racing hit more trouble with reports from Montevideo that Enzo Francescoli will not be returning after the winter break but intends to stay in South America until he can be transferred to an Italian club (Roma have long been favourites) in June.

HOLLAND: In 'catch-up' league fixtures PSV Eindhoven extend their top-of-the-table lead to three points thanks to a 1-0 home win over Groningen and in the Rotterdam derby, Feyenoord beat Sparta 3-2.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA announce final accounts from the finals of the European championship in West Germany. Receipts from all sources totalled £13.7million, almost twice as much as the previous record established at the 1984 finals in France. After deducting staging and other administrative costs of £4million, the profits to the finalists (after deduction of expenses) are: £1,250,000 each for Holland and the Soviet Union; £1,130,000 each to West Germany and Italy; and £1,030,000 to each of the other four finalists (Denmark, Spain, England and the Irish Republic). Ticket sales raised £8.2million, television brought in £2.7million and commercial and marketing sources a further £2.8million . . . Karl-heinz Rummenigge, 18-goal top scorer with Servette in the league, is offered a role in the United States as part of the publicity machine for the 1994 World Cup . . . Gerd Aigner is formally confirmed by UEFA as new secretary-general in succession to the retired Hans Bangerter.

● *Continued overleaf*

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCT

● *Continued from previous page*

WEST GERMANY: The DFB decide that the November 29 game between Karlsruhe and Borussia Monchengladbach should be replayed because a Borussia player, Hochstatter, was forced out of the match after being struck by a missile thrown from the crowd. Borussia went on to lose 3-1. Karlsruhe, whose appeal will be heard in January, also have their ground suspended for one home league match.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

ACTION: Italy beat Scotland 2-0 in Perugia with goals from Giuseppe Giannini — with a controversial twice-taken penalty — and Nicola Berti.

ARGENTINA: The table-topping duel between Racing and Boca Juniors is abandoned at the end of the first half after two Boca players, goalkeeper Navarro Montoya and defender Juan Simon, are struck by smoke bombs and missiles thrown from hooligan sections of the crowd.

BRAZIL: The three candidates for the CBF presidential elections on January 16 are confirmed as sitting president Octavio Pinto Guimaraes, his power-behind-the-throne Nabi Abi Chedid — as well as FIFA president Joao Havelange's son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira.

SWEDEN: International clearance for the transfer of Erik Thorstvedt from IFK Gothenburg to Tottenham is finally completed and issued by the Swedish FA.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

NEW ZEALAND: John Adshead, who was manager of New Zealand at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, is reappointed in succession to Kevin Fallon in time for the next stage of the Oceania World Cup qualifiers.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHILE: The Big Five rebels who are boycotting the championship (Colo Colo, Universidad Catolica, Universidad de Chile, Union Espanola and Palestino) lay plans to launch a breakaway competition of their own. The Big Five want the resignation of FA president Miguel Nasur whom they blame for financial and administrative blunders culminating the Ivo Basay transfer row which almost ended with Chile being kicked out of the World Cup.

URUGUAY: New Uruguayan champions Danubio serve notice on Zaragoza of Spain that they expect payment of £45,000 as their cut of the transfer of their former player, Ruben Sosa, from Zaragoza last summer to Lazio of Italy.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

TURKEY: One of the few championships running through, with Fenerbahce having a happy Christmas as they beat Sariyer 3-2 at home to stay top of the championship.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

GREECE: The scale of the scandal involving the banker and ex-Olympiakos president George Koskotas increases following allegations by a newly-resigned Defence Equipment Minister (Stathis Yiotas) of bank fraud involving arms deal corruption.

POLAND: The Polish federation announces a five-year domestic action ban on Andrzej Rudy, the GKS Katowice defector, who is about to start a trial with French league club Monaco.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star dismiss long-serving coach Branko Stankovic after a sequence of results which included Champions' Cup elimination by Milan and then league defeat by bitter rivals Partizan. Controversial old hero Dragoslav Sekularac, formerly Stankovic's assistant, takes over . . . the federation orders all clubs to publish details of all transfer arrangements — in an attempt to crack down on 'fiddles' to circumvent rules designed to hold all fees to a maximum of £6,000.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

ACTION: Iraq lose 2-0 at home to Kuwait in the first international to be played in Iraq for four years now that FIFA's 'war zone' suspension of both Iraq and Iran has been lifted.

BELGIUM: Mechelen lose 1-0 away to second division Boom in Belgian cup first leg tie. Anderlecht thrash third division Hamme 8-0 with four goals from Edi Krncevic and three from Luc Nilis.

FRANCE: The Paris weekly, France Football, predictably names Milan's Holland centre-forward Marco Van Basten as European Footballer of the Year. Full voting: Marco Van Basten (Milan, Hol) 129 points; Ruud Gullit (Milan, Hol) 88; Frank Rijkaard (Milan, Hol) 45; Alexei Mikhailichenko (Kiev, Sov) 41; Ronald Koeman (PSV Eindhoven, Hol) 39; Lothar Matthaus (Bayern Munich, WG) 10; Gianluca Vialli (Sampdoria, It) 7; Franco Baresi (Milan, It) 5, Jurgen Klinsmann (Stuttgart, WG) 5 and Alexander Zavarov (Juventus, SU) each 5; Tanju Colak (Galatasaray, Tur) and Oleg Kuznetsov (Kiev, SU) each 4; Rinat Dasayev (Sevilla, Sov), Anatoly Demianenko (Kiev, Sov), Glenn Hysen (Fiorentina, Swe) and Michel (Real Madrid, Sp) each 3; Flemming Povlsen (Koln, Den), Michel Preud'homme (Mechelen, Bel) and Walter Zenga (Inter, It) each 2; Gheorghe Hagi (Steaua, Rum), Roberto Mancini (Sampdoria, It), Dejan Savicevic (Red Star, Yug), Neville Southall (Everton, Wal) and Dragan Stojkovic (Red Star, Yug) each 1. Previous winners: 1956 Matthews. 1957 Di Stefano. 1958 Kopa. 1959 Di Stefano. 1960 Suarez. 1961 Sivori. 1962 Masopust. 1963 Yashin. 1964 Law. 1965 Eusebio. 1966 Charlton. 1967 Albert. 1968 Best. 1969 Rivera. 1970 Muller. 1971 Cruyff. 1972 Beckenbauer. 1973 Cruyff. 1974 Cruyff. 1975 Blokhin. 1976 Beckenbauer. 1977 Simonsen. 1978 Keegan. 1979 Keegan. 1980 Rummenigge. 1981 Rummenigge. 1982 Rossi. 1983 Platini. 1984 Platini. 1985 Platini. 1986 Belanov. 1987 Gullit.

ITALY: Milan president Silvio Berlusconi rejects an offer for talks, from Barcelona vice-president Juan Gaspart, concerning a transfer bid from the Catalan club for Dutch star Ruud Gullit . . . Torino's Brazil star Muller, already four days overdue after the Christmas holiday, says he and his wife are homesick. They do not like the idea of returning to Italy but have been persuaded to do so by his personal manager.

WEST GERMANY: Domestic Footballer of the Year Jurgen Klinsmann denies reports that he has signed for Atletico Madrid and/or Internazionale of Italy. Klinsmann says: "I am tired of all these stories. I will not be making a decision until March the earliest."

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star midfielder Dragan Stojkovic is voted Footballer of the Year.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

FRANCE: A football/drugs story breaks in France. The Parisien Libere newspaper claims that amphetamines are widely used by players before big matches. The report, however, fails to name names.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

BRAZIL: Antonio Carlos Aranha, always suspected but never charged concerning the theft and destruction of the Jules Rimet Trophy (the original World Cup) is murdered at Ipanaema, Rio de Janeiro, by two attackers who shoot him seven times. Police sources suspect a revenge killing, claiming that Aranha was one of three men who stole the Rimet Trophy from the CBF headquarters in 1985 and who then had it melted down — but did not split the proceeds with his accomplices.

NIGERIA: Nigeria's West German national coach, Manfred Hoener, is reported missing by his local bank in Lagos, who say he has not collected back pay of £18,000.

PERU: Ramon Mifflin, former Peru World Cup star, is the subject of an extradition application by Peru, after he is arrested for suspected drug-running in Arica, northern Chile.

POLAND: The Polish federation confirm that they asked FIFA to implement worldwide their five-year ban on defector Andrzej Rudy.

RUMANIA: Steaua's Miodrag Belodedici, one of the most stylish sweepers in Europe, asks for political asylum in Yugoslavia. Belodedici was born near Belgrade and hopes to play for Red Star, who are trying to open negotiations with Steaua to "resolve the matter in an amicable fashion."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

HUNGARY: Bicskei Bertalan, coach of Honved and former international goalkeepr, is appointed new national manager in succession to Gyorgy Mezey.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

SPAIN: All the action comes in the second half as Real Madrid recover from going a goal down to beat Espanol 4-1 in Barcelona and stay top of the table. Espanol's new English signing, Adrian Heath (from Everton), puts them ahead. But the champions hit back. Hugo Sanchez collects a hat-trick in the 58th, 62nd and 72nd minutes and lays on the fourth for Emilio Butragueno.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

ITALY: Napoli slip up badly, losing 1-0 away to Roma. Inter, who beat Lecce 3-0, thus go three points clear at the top . . . two men are arrested in Brescia, who are playing Cremonese in a second division match. They are charged with giving a 15-year-old boy, Davide Fornaroli, such a beating that he undergoes emergency surgery.

PORTUGAL: FC Porto have their neighbours to thank for keeping in the league title hunt. The 'other' Oporto team, Boavista, beat league leaders Benfica 2-1. Porto win 2-1 away to Sporting to underline their title potential as they move to within two points of Benfica.

SPAIN: A bad defeat for Atletico Madrid boss Ron Atkinson as Barcelona come to the Estadio Calderon and win 3-1. Baltazar puts Atletico ahead from a 20th-minute penalty but Barsa hit back in the second half with goals from Roberto, Lineker and Baquero.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

ITALY: Second division Brescia sack ex-Fiorentina star Vincenzo Guerini and appoint one-time Milan boss Massimo Giacomini.

TURKEY: Galatasaray decide that their 'home' leg against Monaco in the Champions' Cup quarter-finals will be played in Cologne instead of first-choice venue Kaiserslautern — such is the demand for tickets from Turkish workers in West Germany.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

FRANCE: Kalusha Bwalya, Zambia's Olympic star from Cercle Bruges, is voted African Footballer of the Year in the annual poll organised by France Football. Voting: Bwalya (Cercle, Zam) 111 votes; Milla (Montpellier, Cam) 68; Fofana (Monaco, Iv) 40; Weah (Monaco, Liberia) 32; Bouderbala (Racing Paris, Mor) and Rufai (Lokeren, Nga) each 27; Keshi (Anderlecht, Nga) and Kunde (Reims, Cam) each 14; Kingambo (Sint-Trond, Zaire) 13; Bell (Toulon, Cam) 12; Madjer (Porto, Alg) and Tataw (Tonnerre Yaounde, Cam) each 11; Nkono (Espanol, Cam), Ozugola, Uwe (Iwuanyanwu Oweri, Nga), Yekini (Africa Sports, Nga) each 9; Drid (Raja Casablanca, Alg), Sinalo (MDC Utd, Mal) each 8; Dawo (Gor Mahia, Ken), Maaloul (Esperance Tunis, Tun) and Pele (Lille, Gha) each 7; Abdelghani (Beira Mar, Eg), Birema (El Hilal, Sud), Chimodzi (MDC Utd, Mal), Mends (Africa Sports, Iv), Mendy (Toulon, Sen), Phiri (Admarc Tigers, Zam), Sene (Paris SG, Sen), Shoubeir (Al Ahly, Eg), Abdoulaye Traore (Avignon, Iv) and Yeboah

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

GOZA CHIEF S WAGE BILL

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

(Saarbrucken, Gha) each 5; Abel (Benfica, Ang), Ademola (NN Bank, Nga), Chambo (Black Rhinos, Zim), Degeshi (Ethiopia), Diop (Diaraf Dukar, Sen), Kabongo (Lyon, Zaire), Musonda (Anderlecht, Zam), Okwaraji (Kickers Stuttgart, Nga), Shofoluwe (Julius Berger, Nga) and Yasine (Al Ahly, Eg) each 4; Abu Zeid (Al Ahly, Eg), Hasule (N.Villa, Ug), Krimau (Racing Paris, Mor), Lemriss (FAR, Mor), Mbaselka (Red Devils, Zam), Medane (JET, Alg), Megharia (Chlef, Alg), Nwosu (AC Bank, Nga), Serrar (Setif, Alg), Smith (Africa Sports, Iv), Zaki (Mallorca, Mor) each 3; Bocande (Nice, Sen), Gbolie (Bouake, Iv), Hassan H, Mayhoub (Al Ahly, Eg), Khairi (FAR, Mor), Malunga (Cercle Bruges, Mal), Mbongo (Diamant Yaounde, Cent.Af), Monguehi (FA 105, Iv), Waya (B.Bullets, Mal) and Wuldeyes (Ethiopia) each 2; Belloumi (M.Oran, Alg), Bvubya (N.Villa, Ug), Chabala (Mufulira Wanderers, Zam), Dvube (Highlanders, Zim), Gouamene (Africa Sports, Iv), Hassan I (Al Ahly, Eg), Makanaky (Lens, Cam), Mawuena (Gomido, Togo), Osmani (Setif, Alg), Teuw (Club Brugge, Sen), Traore Am. (Yennenga, Burkina Faso) each one. Previous winners: 1970 Keita. 1971 Sunday. 1972 Souleymane. 1973 Bwanga. 1974 Moukila. 1975 Faras. 1976 Milla. 1977 Tarak. 1978 Razak. 1979 Nkono. 1980 Onguene. 1981 Belloumi. 1982 Nkono. 1983 Al Khatib. 1984 Abega. 1985 Timoumi. 1986 Zaki. 1987 Madjer.

HOLLAND: Ton Harmsen, ex-president of Ajax currently under investigation in a major tax fraud inquiry, suffers a stroke and is seriously ill in hospital in Amsterdam.

ITALY: Torino's reluctant Brazilian, Muller, is fined £10,000 for reporting back late after the Christmas holidays . . . 11 hooligan fans are jailed by a court in Florence for periods of between eight months and three years following trouble before, during and after a game against Roma on December 18, 1983.

URUGUAY: Penarol sell forward Daviel Vidal to Spain's Las Palmas for £300,000.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

ENGLAND: A glimmer of hope for the anti-ID card brigade as an article in The Times suggests a real prospect that the Bill may not receive the whole-hearted Parliamentary support necessary to turn its provisions into law . . . England manager Bobby Robson turns television reporter on Channel Four news to present a 15-minute justification of his work.

ISRAEL: Israel lose 2-0 at home to Holland in a Tel-Aviv friendly. The start of the match is delayed after both teams walk out at the start in white shirts. The teams return to the dressing rooms before the Israelis emerge in a blue strip.

ITALY: Two Sampdoria hooligan fans are jailed — one for a year, the other for eight months — after a street battle with rival Genoa fans the previous Tuesday . . . in the cup quarter-finals, first legs, Napoli beat Ascoli 3-0 with Diego Maradona making a gentle second-half appearance as a substitute. Atalanta beat Lazio 2-0, Sampdoria beat Fiorentina 3-0 and Verona beat Pisa 2-1.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

ACTION: The inaugural World Indoor Cup gets under way in Holland with the hosts beating Denmark 4-2 in Rotterdam.

FRANCE: Marseille's Di Mecco and Germain, who claimed they 'forgot' they had been summoned to a dope test after the league game against Cannes, are both banned for four games. Marseille are fined £1,250.

HOLLAND: Crisis for Holland and PSV Eindhoven. Goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen suffers a serious knee injury playing for PSV at an indoor tournament in Munich and will be out of the game for up to eight months.

SOVIET UNION: Vladimir Bezverkhy, president of Kiev Dynamo, tells the official newspaper Izvestia that his club are now autonomously professional.

SPAIN: Jose Angel Zalba, president of Zaragoza, finds £125,000 out of his own pocket to pay the penniless first division club's December wage bill.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

ACTION: The African second round qualifying section of the World Cup gets under way with Algeria beating Zimbabwe 3-0 and Egypt beating Liberia 2-0. In the Asian section Qatar celebrate a 1-0 win over Jordan. Other qualifiers see Oman draw 1-1 with Iraq and Kuwait beat Pakistan 1-0.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star have yet to make any progress in attempts to resolve the case of Miodrag Belodedici, the Steaua Bucharest sweeper who is claiming asylum in Yugoslavia. For the past month Belodedici has been living at the home of his mother, in his home village of Vracev Gaj, near the town of Bela Crkva, some 65 miles east of Belgrade.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

ACTION: World Cup qualifying work sees Nigeria beat Gabon 1-0 . . . in the World Indoor Cup, Brazil thrash Saudi Arabia 8-0 in their first round game. There are two goals apiece for Sergio Benatti, Carlos Toca and Neimar Valadares. Japan decide to play Argentina, despite doubts after the death of Emperor Hirohito, and lose just 2-1.

HOLLAND: Unofficial reports from Spain claim that Ronald Koeman and PSV Eindhoven have agreed terms for the Dutch star's transfer to Barcelona at the end of the season. The fee is reported as £4.5million and Koeman's four-year contract is worth a £500,000 signing-on fee plus £400,000 per season.

URUGUAY: World club champions Nacional replace title-winning coach Roberto Fleitas with Raul Nunez.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

ACTION: More African World Cup action with Ivory Coast beating Libya 1-0 and Morocco winning by the same narrow margin against Zambia. Zaire beat Tunisia 3-1 but Cameroon are surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Angola . . . at the World Indoor Cup the first round is completed with Holland and Paraguay, Brazil and Hungary, Belgium and Argentina, and the United States and Italy qualifying for the next stage.

GREECE: Crisis club Olympiakos go top of the table for the first time in nearly two years when they win 2-1 away against previous leaders AEK Athens. With PAOK Salonika being held 1-1 away to Diagoras, Olympiakos top the table on goal difference from AEK and PAOK. Hungarian Lajos Detari opened the scoring for Olympiakos in the seventh minute and Minas Hadjidis grabbed the winner in the 88th after AEK had equalised in 52 minutes through Giorgos Peppes. AEK could not use their own stadium to host the match because of a one-match ground ban imposed for hooliganism before Christmas.

ITALY: Juventus and Napoli both win away (3-1 at Roma and 1-0 at Torino, respectively) to maintain their status as main pursuers of leaders Inter, who beat relegation-threatened Bologna 1-0 with a goal from Aldo Serena. Juventus' victory away to erratic Roma is probably the performance of the day with Altobelli, Rui Barros and Cabrini (penalty) scoring their goals. Giuseppe Giannini converts a late penalty for Roma who were unlucky earlier when Rudi Voller shot against the bar. Fiorentina beat Lazio 3-0 to ease pressure on Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson. Ironically it is his chief problem player, Roberto Baggio, who is most influential in victory, creating the first goal and scoring the third.

PORTUGAL: Boavista, having upset Benfica one week, now repeat the medicine in the Oporto derby as they beat FC Porto 4-1. An own goal by international defender Bandeirinha begins the Porto rot. However they remain two points behind Benfica because the leaders lose a second successive game, this time by 1-0 to Penafiel.

SPAIN: Real Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker says his club and Barcelona lead the race to sign Holland's Ronald Koeman. Beenhakker says: "He prefers to play in Spain rather than Italy so whichever of us makes the better offer will get him." Barcelona have apparently offered PSV Eindhoven £4.5million while Madrid are offering £3.5million but better terms for the player . . . reports from Italy say Madrid are also interested in Brazil's Careca, whose contract with Napoli expires at the end of the season . . . in league action Madrid hit back from a goal down to beat Elche 4-2, with Hugo Sanchez scoring twice in the closing minutes. Barcelona remain in touch with a 3-0 win over Cadiz. Atletico Madrid can only draw 1-1 away to next-to-bottom Murcia.

WEST GERMANY: The risks of the indoor game become apparent as Bayern Munich forward Roland Wohlfarth injures his foot at a tournament in Stuttgart, damage which will keep him out of action until only just before the UEFA Cup quarter-final against Hearts.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

BELGIUM: Sir Harry Livermore, representing Liverpool fans at the Heysel trial, says many of the accused may boycott the closing stages because of high travel costs. Those who are absent lose the right for their defence counsel to make final submissions.

HOLLAND: Players at the World Indoor Cup are ordered to wear shin guards in line with FIFA's 'outdoor' instructions as part of a drive to reduce any possible risk of the spread of AIDS.

ISRAEL: Israel's High Court of Justice orders the Interior Ministry to approve construction of the controversial Jerusalem municipal soccer stadium which has been on the drawing boards since 1973 because of Orthodox Jewish opposition. Mayor Teddy Kollek says: "I share the joy of Jerusalem's citizens and sports fans. They deserve a major soccer stadium. I hope it will be ready in time for the start of next season."

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich agree terms for a two-year extension of the contract of coach Jupp Heynckes. The league leaders also agree terms with Koln to sign international defender Jurgen

● *Continued overleaf*

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

● *Continued from previous page*

Kohler at the end of the season for £1.2million, making him the most expensive defender in the history of the West German game.

YUGOSLAVIA: Tomislav Ivic, coach to French league leaders Paris Saint-Germain, says that football is becoming a game for smaller players. Ivic tells Belgrade coaching convention: "Very soon ideal players, especially in defence, will be only around 1.60metres tall. They can move better and faster and can control a ball better because their centre of gravity is low. It's just a question of time."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

ACTION: Two significant results in the World Indoor Cup second round, with emerging favourites Brazil beating unofficial world title-holders Paraguay 5-1 and the United States defeating Argentina 3-1. Both matches are in group two. US coach John Kowalski says: "Everyone will think this is a misprint when they see it in the papers!"

BRAZIL: Flamengo's national team defender Jorginho is on the verge of signing a pre-contract with Italian club Roma. Flamengo will almost certainly get midfielder Andrade back as part of the deal.

ENGLAND: The English FA agree to a compensation payment of £400,000, spread over four years, to the Northern Ireland FA because live broadcasting of domestic cup-ties into another federation's 'territory' is a breach of UEFA regulations.

ITALY: Napoli officials warn hopeful fans that Sunday's forthcoming top-of-the-table league game against Internazionale is already a sell-out with record receipts of £1.5million guaranteed.

SPAIN: Johan Cruyff agrees to extend his one-year coaching contract with Barcelona until 1991. Cruyff will be paid at the same rate as now — £600,000 per year — plus a cost-of-living increase to keep him up with Spain's inflation rate . . . Real Madrid goalkeeper Paco Buyo is given an extra one-game ban by the Spanish federation for his controversial role in the battle with neighbours Atletico . . . Ron Atkinson is reported to be on the verge of dismissal by Atletico Madrid.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA confirm that Bahrain have withdrawn from the World Cup qualifiers. Bahrain federation officials blame the decision on "technical problems" — i.e. they do not have a manager.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

ACTION: Malta lose 2-1 at home to Israel in a friendly in Valletta . . . in the World Indoor Cup there are new victories for the Brazil and for the United States. Brazil overwhelm Argentina 6-3 and the United States beat Paraguay 2-0.

BELGIUM: Officials of struggling Cercle Bruges start to worry that Kalusha Bwalya, Zambia's newly-crowned African Footballer of the Year, has yet to report back for training, three days after playing for his country in a 1-0 World Cup qualifying defeat in Morocco . . . a local court rules that more than 20 players and former players of second division Ghent must face tax evasion trial following a five-year investigation. The Ghent club have already been fined £240,000 by the Belgian national treasury . . . Leo Clijsters of Mechelen is voted Footballer of the Year.

DENMARK: Aarhus striker Frank Pingel joins Newcastle, who raise the £250,000 fee from the £750,000 sale of goalkeeper Dave Beasant to Chelsea. Newcastle manager Jim Smith says he will keep his options open on Pingel's Aarhus colleague, Bjorn Kristensen.

HOLLAND: FIFA secretary Sepp Blatter says the world authority is determined to maintain its age limit of 24 for the next Olympic football tournament despite opposition from IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch . . . PSV Eindhoven sign Carlo Lami on loan from Excelsior Rotterdam to cover in goal after losing Hans Van Breukelen with a serious knee injury suffered at an indoor tournament in Munich.

PORTUGAL: Irish veteran Micky Walsh says he is determined to bring his family — wife Christine and quadruplet children — back to Britain at the end of the season even though Rio Ave, with whom he is player-manager, are pressing for promotion back to the first division . . . no problems this time for Benfica as they thrash the part-timers of Riachense 14-1 in a fourth round cup-tie. Nigerian striker Ricky Owubokiri scores six times. There is a shock, however, for last year's beaten finalists as Vitoria Guimaraes crash 2-1 to third division giantkillers Vasco da Gama.

SPAIN: No change at the top. Real Madrid beat Malaga 2-1 thanks to a last-minute goal from Ricardo Gallego while pursuers Barcelona thrash Sevilla (and Rinat Dasayev) 4-0. Salinas, Baquero, Lineker and Beguiristain score the goals on an untroubled night for Andoni Zubizarreta, playing his 100th league game in goal for Barcelona.

YUGOSLAVIA: Milos Drizic, centre-back from Rad Belgrade, signs for English first division club Southampton for £250,000.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

ACTION: Italy beat Hungary 3-1 at the World Indoor Cup in Rotterdam but victory comes too late to rescue the Italians' hopes of a place in the second round.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

SPAIN: Real Madrid are held 1-1 away to Valencia, offering Barcelona the chance to pull within a point of the league leaders.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

ACTION: Brazil win the World Indoor Cup, beating hosts Holland 2-1 in the Final in Rotterdam. The United States beat Belgium 3-2 in the third place match and also collect the Fair Play trophy . . . Uruguay beat Argentina 2-1 and Brazil beat England 3-0 in the opening games of the Pele Cup veterans tournament in Sao Paulo.

BRAZIL: Sebastiao Lazarone is to leave Al Ahly of Saudi Arabia to take over as Brazil's national manager in succession to Carlos Alberto da Silva. A spokesman for the CBF says Carlos Alberto Parreira was first choice but he is bound by contract to the Saudi federation.

ITALY: Diego Maradona tells a Brazilian magazine of his low general opinion of Argentine politicians, saying: "In my country, politics have been used against the people. I am tired of hearing promises which are never kept. As for the forthcoming elections, it would really be best if President Alfonsin could stay in office but the law doesn't allow it." Nor is Maradona particularly impressed with Italian league leaders Internazionale. After Inter hold Napoli to a goalless draw in Naples, Maradona says: "Now we've seen them in action we know they are having the sort of luck one needs to win championships." There are few chances. Napoli's Fernando De Napoli comes closest with a shot which hits the Inter bar . . . there were hooligan trouble reports from Rome, where Lazio beat Roma 1-0 in the derby, and from Florence, where Fiorentina beat Juventus 2-1. In Rome there are five arrests and two in Florence — where an elderly fan collapsed and died of a heart attack when the hosts grabbed a last-minute winner.

SPAIN: Barcelona miss the chance to narrow the gap on Real Madrid when they are held 2-2 at Malaga. Atletico Madrid are held goalless at home by Celta, fuelling new speculation about the fate of manager Ron Atkinson. Sevilla's Soviet keeper Rinat Dasayev has another nightmare, fumbling a shot from Adolfo Munoz back into his own net to present Logrones with a 1-0 win — their first in 13 matches.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

BELGIUM: Anderlecht's controversial, veteran coach Raymond Goethals says he has rejected an offer from Bordeaux . . . the state prosecutor at the Heysel trial lays heavy blame for the tragedy on the Belgian police and football authorities.

BRAZIL: The CBF completes the formality of electing Ricardo Teixeira, son-in-law of FIFA president Joao Havelange, as new president. All contenders had withdrawn before the election. Teixeira immediately announces a list of 39 players for the Brazilian national team squad aimed at both the South American championship and World Cup qualifiers later in the year.

UNITED STATES: Bob Gansler is appointed new head coach of the US World Cup team, replacing Lothar Osiander, who had offered to stand down when USSF president Werner Fricker decided the job must be a full-time appointment.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

BELGIUM: Cercle officials say they have traced Kalusha Bwalya at last and have been told he will return after Zambia's World Cup-tie on Sunday against Zaire . . . second division Racing Jet sack veteran Eastern European stars Ladislau Boloni (Rumania) and Petr Janecka and Josef Barmos (both Czechoslovakia) because of poor results. All three protest to the BFU through the players' union.

ENGLAND: Sergei Baltacha plays his first game since arriving in Ipswich, in a goalless draw in a reserve match against Southampton. He says: "The main difficulty will be understanding what my team-mates shout at me." The match was watched by a crowd of 842. Baltacha says that there is a long list of other Soviet soccer players available for transfer to the West . . . the controversial Football Spectators Bill is introduced in Parliament in the House of Lords. In Switzerland UEFA's new general secretary Gerd Aigner says the Bill's provisions could lead to English clubs being readmitted to European competitions in 1990 or 1991.

FRANCE: FIFA president Joao Havelange's interview with Paris daily L'Equipe confirms France as front-runners to host the 1998 World Cup finals. Havelange says: "I would be happy to see France host the World Cup 60 years after doing so for the first time. Switzerland are also in the running but must resolve a problem with stadia; Brazil will probably not get over their serious financial difficulties in time; and, as for Morocco, it's a beautiful country but it's not as easy as that."

HOLLAND: Willem II hit the jackpot by selling striker Willem Van der Ark to Aberdeen for £250,000 and signing David Logie from Groningen as £50,000 replacement.

SPAIN: Ron Atkinson, back on a flying visit to England, learns that he is being replaced as Atletico Madrid manager by his assistant, Colin Addison. President Jesus Gil furiously criticises Atkinson's managerial style in an interview on state radio . . . Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza says the high cost of planned redevelopment work on the Estadio Bernabeu may preclude the signing of Ronald Koeman — thus leaving the field clear to Barcelona.

YUGOSLAVIA: Velez Mostar midfielder Ivica Barbaric begins a one-week trial with Manchester United.

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1988 EUROPEAN DOMESTIC TITLES

ALBANIA — Champions: 17 Nentori. **Cup final:** Flamurtari 1, Vllaznia Skoder 0. **Top scorer:** Agustin Kola (Nentori) 18.
AUSTRIA — Champions: Rapid Vienna. **Cup final:** Krems bt FC Tirol 2-0, 1-3 (on away goals rule). **Top scorer:** Zoran Stojadinovic (Rapid) 27.
BELGIUM — Champions: Club Brugge. **Cup final:** Anderlecht 2, Standard Liege 0. **Top scorer:** Francis Severeyns (Antwerp) 24.
BULGARIA — Champions: Vitosha. **Cup final:** CFKA Sredets 4, Vitosha 1. **Top scorer:** Nasko Sirakov (Vitosha) 28.
CYPRUS — Champions: Pezoporikos. **Cup final:** Omonia 2, AEL 1. **Top scorer:** Tassos Zouvanis (Paralimni) 23.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Champions: Sparta. **Cup final:** Sparta 2, Inter Bratislava 0. **Top scorer:** Milan Luhovy (Dukla) 24.
DENMARK — Champions: Brondbyernes. **Cup final:** Aarhus 2, Brondbyernes 1 aet. **Top scorer:** Bent Christensen (Brondyernes).
EAST GERMANY — Champions: BFC Dynamo East Berlin. **Cup final:** BFC Dynamo Berlin 2, Carl Zeiss Jena 0 aet. **Top scorer:** Andreas Thom (BFC Dynamo Berlin) 20.
ENGLAND — Champions: Liverpool. **Cup final:** Wimbledon 1, Liverpool 0. **Top scorer:** John Aldridge (Liverpool) 26.
FAROE ISLANDS — Champions: HB. **Cup final:** HB 1, NSI 0. **Top scorer:** Morkure (LIF) 13.
FINLAND — Champions: HJK Helsinki. **Cup final:** Haka Valkeakosken 1, OTP 0. **Top scorer:** Ismo Lius (Kuusysi Lahti) 22.
FRANCE — Champions: Monaco. **Cup final:** Metz 1, Sochaux 1 (5-4 pens, aet). **Top scorer:** Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille) 19.
GREECE — Champions: Larissa. **Cup final:** Panathinaikos 2. Olympiakos 2 (4-3 pens, aet). **Top scorer:** Henrik Hielsen (AEK Athens) 20.
HOLLAND — Champions: PSV Eindhoven. **Cup final:** PSV Eindhoven 3, Roda JC 2 aet. **Top scorer:** Wim Kieft (PSV) 28.
HUNGARY — Champions: Honved. **Cup final:** Bekescsaba 3, Honved 2. **Top scorer:** Bela Melis (Debrecen) 19.
ICELAND — Champions: Fram Reykjavik. **Cup final:** Valur 1, IBK 0. **Top scorer:** Sigurjon Kristjansson (Valur) 13.
ITALY — Champions: Milan. **Cup final:** Sampdoria bt Torino 2-0, 1-2 aet. **Top scorer:** Diego Maradona (Napoli) 15.
LUXEMBOURG — Champions: Jeunesse d'Esch. **Cup final:** Jeunesse d'Esch 1, Avenir Beggen 0. **Top scorer:** Patrick Morocutti (Union Sportive) 26.
MALTA — Champions: Hamrun Spartans. **Cup final:** Hamrun Spartans 4, Floriana 2. **Top scorer:** Barry Gallagher (Hamrun) 7.
NORTHERN IRELAND — Champions: Glentoran. **Cup final:** Glentoran 1, Glenavon 0. **Top scorer:** Martin McGaughey (Linfield) 18.
NORWAY — Champions: Rosenborg Trondheim. **Cup final:** Rosenborg 2, Brann Bergen 0 (replay after 2-2 draw). **Top scorer:** Jan Age Fjortoft (Lillestrom) 14.
POLAND — Champions: Gornik Zabrze. **Cup final:** Lech Poznan 1, Legia Warsaw 1 (3-2 pens). **Top scorer:** Darius Dziekanowski (Legia) 20.
PORTUGAL — Champions: FC Porto. **Cup final:** FC Porto 1, Vitoria Guimaraes 0. **Top scorer:** Paulinho Cascavel (Sporting) 24.
REP.IRELAND — Champions: Dundalk. **Cup final:** Dundalk 1, Derry City 0. **Top scorer:** Jonathan Speak (Derry) 24.
RUMANIA — Champions: Steaua Bucharest. **Cup final:** Steaua 2, Dinamo Bucharest 1 (match abandoned). **Top scorer:** Victor Piturca (Steaua) 34.
SAN MARINO — Champions: Tre Fiori.
SCOTLAND — Champions: Celtic. **Cup final:** Celtic 2, Dundee Utd 1. **Top scorer:** Tommy Coyne (Dundee) 33.
SOVIET UNION — Champions: Dnepr. **Cup final:** Metallist Kharkov 2, Moscow Torpedo 0. **Top scorer:** Alexander Borodyuk (Moscow Dynamo) and Yevgeni Shakhov (Dnepr) each 16.
SPAIN — Champions: Real Madrid. **Cup final:** Barcelona 1, Real Sociedad 0. **Top scorer:** Hugo Sanchez (Real Madrid) 29.
SWEDEN — Champions: Malmo. **Cup final:** Norrkoping 3, Orebro 1. **Top scorer:** Martin Dahlin (Malmo) 17.
SWITZERLAND — Champions: Neuchatel Xamax. **Cup final:** Grasshopper 2, Schaffhausen 0. **Top scorer:** John Eriksen (Servette) 36.
TURKEY — Champions: Galatasaray. **Cup final:** Sakaryaspor bt Samsunspor 2-0, 1-1. **Top scorer:** Tanju Colak (Galatasaray) 39.
WALES. Cup final: Cardiff 2, Wrexham 0.
WEST GERMANY — Champions: Werder Bremen. **Cup final:** Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Bochum 0. **Top scorer:** Jurgen Klinsmann (Stuttgart) 19.
YUGOSLAVIA — Champions: Red Star Belgrade. **Cup final:** Borac Banja Luka 1, Red Star 0. **Top scorer:** Dusko Milinkovic (Rad Belgrade) 16.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Nicosia — WC Euro gp 5
Cyprus 1 (Pittas 78 pen)
France 1 (Xuereb 44)
HT: 0-1. Att: 3,000. Ref: Soriano Aladren (Sp)

Cyprus: Pantzarias — Christodolu, Stavru, Miamiliotis, Pittas, Letzas, Yiangudakis, Nikolau, Kantilos, Savva, Christofi (Ioannu 77).

France: Bats — Sonor, Casoni, Boli, Amoros — Bravo (Paille 80), Dib, Sauzee, Passi (Vercruysse 72), Papin, Xuereb.

THIS was the match and result which proved fatal for France boss Henri Michel. He was soon replaced by Michel Platini but not until after Cyprus had snatched an unexpected bonus. Kantilos was fouled by Joel Bats and Pittas put away the equalising spotkick. Earlier France had taken the lead when Xuereb nodded home a headed pass from Passi.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Tirana — WC Euro gp 2
Albania 1 (Shehu 33)
Sweden 2 (Holmqvist 68, Ekstrom 71)
HT: 1-0. Att: 11,500. Ref: Namoglu (Tur)

Albania: Mersini — Alimehmeti, Hodja, Lekbello, Stoja, Josa, Gega, Demollari, Millo, Shehu, Minga.

Sweden: Ravelli — R.Nilsson, P.Larsson, Hysen, Ljung — Thern, Prytz (Holmqvist 66), Stromberg, J.Nilsson — Pettersson, Ekstrom.

SWEDEN were in a hurry to wrap this one up, since Holmqvist, Hysen, Prytz and Stromberg were all due in league action in Italy the next day. Substitute Holmqvist was the key to victory. Two minutes after arriving he converted a pass from Pettersson for Sweden's equaliser then he set up Ekstrom for the winner. Albania did enough to impress watching England manager Bobby Robson and were in the end a little disappointed not to have held onto the first-half lead provided by Shehu.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Rijeka — World Cup Euro gp 5
Yugoslavia 4 (Savicevic 13, 33, 82, Hadzibegic 44 pen)
Cyprus 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 9,000. Ref: Kolev (Bul)

Yugoslavia: Ivkovic — Stanojkovic, Spasic (Juric 46), Brnovic, Hadzibegic, Josic, Stojkovic, Susic, Savicevic, Bazdarevic, Zlatko Vujovic.

Cyprus: Pantzarias — Antonionios, Pittas, Papacoats, Stavrou — Yiangudakis, Savva, Nicolau, Christodolu (Kastanas 65) — Ioannu (Piscas 77), Tsingis.

YUGOSLAVIA cruised comfortably to victory to maintain their leadership of the group and further confirm their role as favourites to qualify for next year's finals in Italy. Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dejan Savicevic was their hat-trick hero.

Valletta — World Cup Euro gp 6
Malta 2 (Busuttil 46, 90)
Hungary 2 (Vincze 5, Kiprich 56)
HT: 0-1. Att: 12,000. Ref: Kukulakis (Gr)

Malta: Cluett — Edwin Camilleri (Saliba 53), Azzopardi, Galea, Silvio Camilleri (S.Vella 70) — Busuttil, R.Vella, Carabott, Gregory — De Giorgio, Woods.

Hungary: P.Disztl — Kozma, L.Disztl, Keller, Kekesi — Csuhay, Kiprich (Pinter 85), Kovacs, Czucsansky — Vincze (Fischer 70), Balogh.

HUNGARY should have gone top of the table by winning. But a combination of Malta's George Cross spirit plus the Hungarians' own team selection problems foiled them. Only three of the Hungarian team who beat Northern Ireland in Budapest in October were in their team because of disciplinary action involving all those players under suspicion in a mass match-fixing scandal. Twice they went ahead — first from the Italy-based Istvan Vincze. But on both occasions Malta's top current player, Carmel Busuttil, pulled Malta level — the second time in the second minute of overtime. That was the goal which kept Northern Ireland top of the group and gave Billy Bingham and Co new hope. Not such a good day for Spain manager Luis Suarez. He flew from Spain on a spying trip but failed to reach Valletta because of a strike at Rome airport.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 1 (Hassan 80)
Switzerland 3 (Zuffi 35, 47, Hermann 68)
HT: 0-1. Att: 10,000. Ref: El Den (Eg)

Egypt: Shobeir — Hassan, Kassem, Yakan, Ramzy — Mayhoub, El Kas (El Gelil 87), Youssef, Nassar (Hamana 46), Eid (Yassein 46), Ramdan.

Switzerland: Brunner — Wehrli — Marini, Weber, Birrer — Koller, Hermann, Favre, Piffaretti (A.Sutter 48) Zuffi, Brigger.

SWISS general Heinz Hermann celebrated his record 90th international with a decisive goal midway through the second half. At the other end of the scale Urs Birrer, making his national team debut at the comparatively late age of 27, was probably their best defender — though this is hard to judge since the Egyptians were so slow in breaking and so reluctant to attempt anything like a decisive strike at goal. Birrer's inclusion illustrated one of the unusual problems confronting manager Daniel Jeanduseux. Birrer speaks German and no French but Blaise Piffaretti, ahead of him in midfield, speaks French but no German. In those cirumstances it was ironic that the only defensive error of the day was committed by experienced, recalled Roger Wehrli, at sweeper. Even then Hassan's goal was much too late to give Egypt any realistic chance of recovery.

Montevideo — intl friendly
Uruguay 3 (Francescoli 13, 31, Sosa 44)
Peru 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 9,000.

Uruguay: Ferro — Herrera, Gutierrez, Trasante, Cabrera, Perdomo, Pereyra, Bengoechea (Martinez), Vidal (Ruben Da Silva), Francescoli (Suarez), Sosa.

Peru: Purizaga — Talaver, del Solar, Reynoso, Olivares, Reyna (Ramirez), Farfan (Rey), Uribe, Cabanillas (Cordero), Carranza, Rey Munoz.

URUGUAY, included a number of their exiles, were much too solid and effective for the reshuffled Peruvians. Enzo Francescoli was delighted with his two goals — and his comments after the game fuelled speculation that he would not happily be returning to Racing Paris after the French winter break.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Seville/Sanchez Pizjuan — World Cup Euro gp 6
Spain 4 (Rogan og 30, Butraguewo 55, Michel 60 pen, Roberto 64)
N.Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 70,000. Ref: Van Langenhove (Bel)

Spain: Zubizarreta — Quique, Jimenez, Andrinua, Gorriz, Roberto, Manolo (Julio Salinas 78), Michel, Butraguewo, Martin Vazquez, Beguiristain (Serna 65).

N.Ireland: McKnight — Rogan, McDonald, McClelland, Worthington — McCreery (Quinn 54), Donaghy (O'Neill 72), Penney — Clarke, K.Wilson, Black.

BILLY Bingham's ambitious plan to run at Spain in the hope of upsetting them — as in that famous victory in the 1982 World Cup — came badly unstuck. Spain are virtually untouchable in Seville, whether at the Benito Villamarin stadium (where they beat the Irish Republic) or in the grander Sanchez Pizjuan. The pressure plus Spanish creativity swept them easily to victory, assisted by Irish error. On the halfhour Rogan intercepted a poor pass from Rafael Martin Vazquez but saw the back pass trickle into the net after McKnight tripped. The Irish could not cope with Michel's skill in midfield

● *Continued overleaf*

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

● *Continued from previous page*

and even though Roberto was foiled by the bar at the start of the second half the writing was on the wall. Emilio Butraguewo, shrugging off the lethargy which has seen him dropped by Real Madrid, snapped up a rebound to score goal No 2. Then Michel made it 3-0 from the penalty spot after McClelland tripped Gorriz. The Irish contributed further to their downfall when Alan McDonald's deflection turned a Roberto shot beyond McKnight.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Perugia — intl friendly
Italy 2 (Giannini 48 pen, Berti 70)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 25,600. Ref: Delmer (Fr)

Italy: Zenga (Tacconi 50) — Bergomi (Ferrara 50), Maldini, F.Baresi, Ferri, Marocchi, Crippa, Berti, Vialli, Giannini, Serena.

Scotland: Goram — Gough (Speedie 86), Narey, McLeish, Malpas, Ferguson (Durie 75), Aitken, McStay (McClair 56), MacLeod, Johnston, Gallacher.

MO Johnston was expected to be injury-weakened Scotland's key figure. His decision to leave Nantes at the season's end meant he was in the shop window as he tried to equal Kenny Dalglish's 11-year-old record of having scored for Scoland in three successive internationals. He fell short of his target however against an Italian team which was in control for most of a competitive match despite their own injury problems. Italy went ahead with a controversial penalty after Gough had brushed by Aldo Serena as they went together for a cross. Scotland protested fiercely about the penalty award, which was converted at seond attempt by Giuseppe Giannini. In the 70th minute Nicola Berti made it 2-0 when he headed in after Gortam had done well to keep out a header from Massimo Crippa. Scotland boss Andy Roxburgh described the penalty as "a real body blow, just when we had appeared to have settled down." This was only Scotland's second defeat in 12 games since the start of last season.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Tel-Aviv — intl friendly
Israel 0
Holland 2 (Wouters 9, Van Loen 10)
HT: 0-2. Att: 20,000. Ref: Kovacs (Hun)

Israel: Gilaudi — Aharony, Parselani, Simonov, Halevy — Alan (Davidi 65), Klinger (Drix 74), Avi Cohen, Sinai — Tikva, Rosenthal (Menachem 88).

Holland: Van Breukelen — Van Aerle, R.Koeman, Van Tiggelen, Silooy (Reckers 82), Wouters, Vanenburg (Ellerman 46), E.Koeman, Van Loen, Bosman (Eykelkamp 67), Huistra (Rob Witschge 56).

THIS friendly was surrounded by chaos. First the kick-off time was, on the day before the match, put back two hours then, when the teams did emerge, it was discover that both were wearing white shirts. Referee Kovacs sent them both back to the dressing rooms for ten minutes to sort themselves out. This time Israel came back wearing blue. The Dutch European champions quickly took control of an untidy game. Vanenburg sent in Wouters to open the score in the ninth minute and Van Loen wrapped it up a minute later by heading in a Huistra cross. It could have been 3-0 soon after but Bosman's 16th-minute effort struck the bar.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Valletta — intl friendly
Malta 1 (Carabott 32)
Israel 2 (Menachem 7, Sinai 89)
HT: 1-1. Att: 4,000.

MALTA'S defeat in this friendly against the Israelis suggests they will prove little more effective as rivals for Northern and Southern Ireland than in their opening World Cup qualifier, when they went down 3-0 in Belfast last May. Malta appeared to be getting the better of the opening exchanges when Israel broke away to take the lead through Igale Menachem in only the seventh minute. Spain's manager Luis Suarez was among the crowd. After Carabott's equaliser Degiorgio was denied by the woodwork but Malta faded after that and Israel just about deserved their late winner.

Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 2 (Hjelm og 30, El Kas 84)
Finland 1 (Paatelainen 14)
HT: 1-1. Att: 12,000.

FINLAND appeared safely in control against the erratic Egyptians until Hjelm's unfortunate own goal provided the hosts with just the encouragement they needed to get their act together.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Dec 7: Bolivia XI 1, Universitario (Peru) 0 — Ujpest Dozsa 0, Hungary 5.
Dec 21: Italy U21 8, Malta U21 0.
Dec 28: Celta de Vigo 1, Spain 2.

MITROPA CUP
Final: Bologna 1, Banik Ostrava 2.

FINLAND

1st Round

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK	22	16	2	4	44	22	34
Kuusysi 69	22	12	5	5	48	25	29
Reipass	22	9	9	4	39	29	27
RoPS	22	8	10	4	31	22	26
TPS Türku	22	8	10	4	25	19	26
Haka	22	8	7	7	32	26	23
Ilves	22	7	6	9	31	38	20
MP Mikkeli	22	6	8	8	19	29	20
OTP Oulu	22	5	6	11	24	31	16
KuPS	22	3	8	11	18	30	14
PPT Pori	22	0	6	16	21	53	6

Play-off: Haka Valkeakoski-KePS Kemi 1-1 (3-2 pens).

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK	27	20	3	4	55	28	43
Kuusysi 69	27	14	6	7	57	30	34
RoPs	27	10	11	6	37	29	31
Reipas	27	10	10	7	47	39	30
TPS	27	10	10	7	29	27	30
Haka	27	10	7	10	41	37	27

RELEGATION FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KePS	27	9	10	8	29	38	28
MP	27	8	10	9	24	33	26
Ilves	27	8	9	10	40	47	25
OTP	27	7	9	11	32	36	23
KuPS	27	4	12	11	24	34	20
PPT	27	0	7	20	26	63	7

ICELAND

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fram	18	16	1	1	38	8	49
Valur	18	13	2	3	36	15	41
IA	18	9	5	4	32	25	32
KA	18	8	3	7	31	29	27
KR	18	7	3	8	26	25	24
Thor	18	6	6	6	25	28	24
Vikingur	18	5	3	10	20	31	18
IBK	18	4	6	8	22	32	18
Leiftur	18	1	6	11	12	26	9
Volsunger	18	2	3	13	13	36	9

DENMARK

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IF	26	17	6	3	57	22	40
Naestved IF	26	14	7	5	38	25	35
Lyngby	26	15	5	6	41	27	35
B 1903	26	12	8	6	44	27	32
Vejle BK	26	10	10	6	38	23	30
Herfölge	26	11	7	8	30	30	29
OB Odense	26	12	5	9	47	36	29
AGF Aarhus	26	10	6	10	37	29	26
Silkeborg	26	11	4	11	39	35	26
Ikast FS.	26	8	6	12	35	39	22
Brönshoj	26	9	4	13	39	46	22
AaB Aalborg	26	8	6	12	33	50	22
Randers Freja	26	2	4	20	27	75	8
KB	26	3	2	21	27	66	8

FAROES

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HB	18	11	3	4	36	19	25
B 68	18	11	2	5	31	14	24
B 36	18	8	5	5	30	19	21
IF	18	6	6	6	23	25	18
GI	18	8	1	9	21	25	17
VB	18	6	4	8	24	26	16
LIF	18	6	4	8	26	31	16
KI	18	6	3	9	29	43	15
TB	18	4	6	8	15	23	14
NSI	18	4	6	8	14	24	14

NORWAY

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	22	14	5	3	54	23	47
Lillestrom	22	11	7	4	38	19	40
Molde FK	22	10	9	3	35	18	39
Moss FK	22	11	4	7	30	19	37
Tromsö IL	22	9	6	7	27	22	33
Sogndal IL	22	8	7	7	27	27	31
Vaalerengen	22	8	6	8	26	32	30
Kongsvinger	22	7	7	8	23	23	28
Brann Bergen	22	7	4	11	16	30	25
Byrne S.	22	5	6	11	29	32	21
Strömmen	22	4	5	13	16	34	17
Djerv 1919	22	3	4	15	17	59	13

SWEDEN

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmö FF	22	15	2	5	45	26	32
IFK Göteborg	22	13	5	4	37	18	31
Djurgaarden	22	9	9	4	38	22	27
Orgryte G.	22	9	5	8	27	23	23
Sundsvall IK	22	8	7	7	26	26	23
Nörrkoping	22	9	3	10	39	29	21
Ik Brage	22	7	7	8	23	30	21
GAIS G.	22	8	4	10	25	31	20
AIK	22	6	6	10	19	30	18
Västra Fr.	22	6	6	10	24	34	18
Öster Växjö	22	4	9	9	20	33	17
Hammarby	22	5	3	14	19	40	13

PLAY-OFFS

SEMI-FINAL: Djurgaarden-IFK Göteborg 2-0, 0-1, Örgryte-Malmö FF 0-1 1-2. FINAL: Djurgaarden-Malmö 0-0 3-7.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	22	15	3	4	52	26	33
Admira W	22	13	5	4	45	27	31
FK Austria	22	12	6	4	54	26	30
St. Pölten	22	10	5	7	33	32	25
Rapid	22	10	4	8	35	26	24
Vien	22	6	10	6	31	34	22
Grazer AK	22	7	8	7	27	37	22
Wiener SK	22	8	4	10	38	43	20
Vorwarts	22	5	8	9	21	31	18
Austria kl.	22	5	6	11	30	47	16
Sturm Graz	22	3	6	13	22	37	12
Linzer ASK	22	3	5	14	21	43	11

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mechelen	19	14	4	1	36	13	32
Anderlecht	19	14	3	2	48	17	31
Liège	19	10	7	2	40	15	27
Brugge	19	11	4	4	40	19	26
Antwerp	19	9	7	3	37	24	25
St Trond	19	9	4	6	23	25	22
Courtrai	19	7	6	6	32	26	20
Standard	19	7	6	6	28	26	20
Waregem	19	8	3	8	30	29	19
Lokeren	19	5	6	8	23	27	16
Charleroi	19	4	8	7	18	30	16
RC Malines	19	5	5	9	24	32	15
Beerschot	19	4	6	9	20	29	14
Beveen	19	4	5	10	20	29	13
Molenbeek	19	5	3	11	17	33	13
Lierse	19	4	5	10	13	31	13
Cercle	19	3	4	12	18	33	10
Genk	19	2	6	11	10	39	10

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizani	15	11	3	1	28	11	25
Apolonia	15	8	5	2	26	5	21
17 Nentori	15	9	3	3	27	12	21
Dinamo	15	7	6	2	15	11	20
Vllaznia	15	7	3	5	18	14	17
Labinoti	15	5	5	5	16	19	15
Beselidhja	15	5	4	6	16	16	14
Flamurtari	15	6	2	7	19	20	14
Skenderbeu	10	15	3	4	8	8	19
Besa	15	4	1	10	17	26	9
Traktori	15	2	4	9	8	27	8
Lokomotiva	15	1	4	10	9	27	6

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dyn Dresden	13	12	0	1	37	13	24
Lok Leipzig	13	7	2	4	21	10	16
Hansa Rostock	13	8	0	5	18	13	16
Dynamo Berlin	13	5	5	3	26	15	15
Carl Zeiss	13	6	2	5	19	13	14
Karl-Marx St.	13	6	1	6	21	23	13
Wismut Aue	13	5	3	5	18	20	13
Magdeburg	13	5	2	6	14	16	12
Brandeburg	13	6	0	7	19	22	12
Chemie Halle	12	4	3	5	16	20	11
Cottbus	13	5	1	7	18	25	11
Rot-W Erfurt	13	4	1	8	12	21	9
Union Berlin	13	2	4	7	11	22	8
Zwickau	12	3	0	9	11	28	6

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	16	10	3	3	32	13	23
AEK	16	10	3	3	23	9	23
Iraklis	16	8	5	3	28	17	21
PAOK	16	8	3	5	23	17	19
Panathinaikos	16	7	4	5	25	17	18
Larissa	16	6	6	4	18	14	18
OFI Crete	16	7	4	5	23	20	18
Aris	16	6	5	5	13	10	17
Levadiakos	16	6	4	6	16	20	16
Panionios	16	6	2	8	21	18	14
Doxa Drama	16	5	4	7	13	14	14
Volos	16	3	8	5	16	19	14
Diagoras	16	3	6	7	14	24	12
Apollon	16	2	6	8	11	20	10
Ethnikos	16	2	6	8	11	27	10
Kalamaris	16	1	7	8	11	33	9

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK-VM	15	9	4	1	28	16	36
Ferencvaros	15	10	1	0	27	20	32
Honved	15	7	4	0	19	12	29
Tatabanya	15	8	1	3	21	16	29
Videoton	15	9	0	1	34	17	28
Raba Eto	15	8	1	1	22	17	27
Vac	15	6	4	1	21	19	26
Bekescs	15	6	1	2	22	19	22
Zalaegers	15	4	3	3	21	17	21
Siolok	15	6	0	3	21	21	21
Pecs	15	4	2	3	20	21	19
Haladas	15	5	1	2	18	24	19
Veszprem	15	3	3	1	10	22	16
D Ujpest	15	3	0	3	20	25	12
Dunaujv	15	1	3	2	13	30	11
Vasas	15	2	1	3	18	38	11

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	25	17	3	5	41	19	37
Dundee United	25	13	1	3	35	12	35
Celtic	25	15	2	8	53	35	32
Aberdeen	25	10	12	3	32	22	32
Hibernian	25	10	7	8	26	23	27
St Mirren	25	9	6	10	27	34	24
Hearts	25	5	10	10	24	28	20
Dundee	25	5	9	11	22	30	19
Motherwell	25	4	8	13	22	34	16
Hamilton	25	3	2	20	13	58	8

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	17	9	8	0	33	11	26
Werder Bremen	17	8	7	2	31	18	23
Köln	17	10	2	5	29	12	22
Stuttgart	17	8	5	4	32	23	21
Hamburg	16	8	4	4	28	18	20
Karlsruhe	17	8	3	6	29	26	19
Uerdingen	17	5	8	4	23	20	18
M'Gladbach	16	6	6	4	23	22	18
Leverkusen	17	4	10	3	22	21	18
St Pauli	17	4	10	3	17	16	18
Kaiserslautern	17	5	7	5	28	23	17
Dortmund	17	4	8	5	23	16	16
Bochum	17	5	6	6	20	22	16
Nurnberg	17	4	3	10	16	31	11
Eint Frankfurt	17	4	3	10	8	27	11
Kickers Stuttg	17	3	5	9	20	44	11
Hannover	17	2	6	9	16	31	10
Mannheim	17	1	7	9	14	31	9

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lucerne	22	10	8	4	27	25	28
Grasshoppers	22	10	7	5	41	29	27
Bellinzona	22	9	7	6	34	27	25
Sion	22	8	8	6	25	21	24
Wettingen	22	5	14	3	23	21	24
Young Boys	22	8	7	7	45	36	23
Neuchâtel-X	22	7	9	6	39	33	23
Servette	22	8	6	8	39	34	22
Aarau	22	5	8	9	27	29	18
Lausanne	22	5	8	9	27	34	18
Saint-Gall	22	5	6	11	29	44	16
Lugano	22	3	10	9	23	46	16

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris-SG	24	15	5	4	32	17	50
Auxerre	24	15	3	6	32	21	48
Marseille	24	11	10	3	35	23	43
Sochaux	24	11	9	4	29	17	42
Monaco	24	11	8	5	37	24	41
Nice	24	11	6	7	31	27	39
Nantes	24	11	6	7	31	27	39
Cannes	24	10	5	9	31	30	35
Toulouse	24	8	10	6	30	27	34
Metz	24	9	6	9	27	23	33
Lille	24	9	6	9	28	25	33
Toulon	24	8	9	7	19	18	33
Montpellier	24	8	9	7	30	32	33
Bordeaux	24	7	9	8	31	26	30
Matra Racing	24	6	7	11	32	34	25
Saint-Etienne	24	6	5	13	22	38	23
Caen	24	5	6	13	20	40	21
Laval	24	4	8	12	19	31	20
Strasbourg	24	5	4	15	26	39	19
Lens	24	2	5	17	26	49	11

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	16	12	1	3	36	15	25
Ajax	17	11	2	4	40	21	24
FC Twente	17	7	8	2	27	13	22
Fort Sittard	17	9	4	4	28	18	22
Feyenoord	15	8	3	4	34	28	19
FC Volendam	16	8	3	5	28	22	19
Groningen	15	7	4	4	31	19	18
Haarlem	17	7	4	6	23	23	18
Roda JC	17	5	7	5	24	21	17
Veendam	17	6	3	8	19	27	15
Den Bosch	17	6	3	8	24	35	15
Sparta	16	4	6	6	21	23	14
FC Utrecht	17	5	4	8	23	29	14
PEC Zwolle	17	5	3	9	26	35	13
Roozendaal KC	16	5	2	9	29	38	12
Maastricht VV	17	3	5	9	19	35	11
VV Venlo	17	1	8	8	16	29	10
Willem II	17	2	6	9	22	39	10

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	14	11	3	0	22	4	25
Napoli	14	9	3	2	27	10	21
Sampdoria	14	7	5	2	18	8	19
Atalanta	14	6	7	1	14	8	19
Juventus	14	6	5	3	24	17	17
Milan	14	6	4	4	22	13	16
Fiorentina	14	6	3	5	19	19	15
Roma	14	6	3	5	15	15	15
Lazio	14	2	8	4	10	13	12
Como	14	4	4	6	11	19	12
Verona	14	2	7	5	9	15	11
Pisa	14	3	5	6	9	17	11
Ascoli	14	4	2	8	11	16	10
Bologna	14	4	2	8	12	19	10
Pescara	14	3	4	7	13	21	10
Cesena	14	2	6	6	7	15	10
Lecce	14	4	2	8	9	18	10
Torino	14	2	5	7	13	18	9

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	22	14	6	2	31	10	34
FC Porto	22	12	8	2	26	12	32
Sporting	22	10	8	4	29	17	28
Boavista	22	10	6	6	29	17	26
Vit Setubal	22	10	4	8	29	24	24
Penafiel	22	8	8	6	21	17	24
Nacional	22	9	6	7	31	29	24
Vit Guimaraes	22	8	7	7	21	18	23
Chaves	22	7	7	8	17	16	22
Maritimo	22	6	9	7	26	24	21
Beira-Mar	22	6	9	7	16	16	21
elenenses	22	5	11	6	23	21	21
Braga	22	7	7	8	21	22	20
Amadora	22	7	5	10	18	28	19
Leixos	22	6	7	9	15	23	19
Espinho	22	6	6	10	28	30	18
Fafe	22	6	6	10	16	30	18
Farense	22	5	6	11	11	31	16
Portiomonense	22	4	7	11	13	23	15
Viseu	22	4	7	11	14	31	15

URUGUAY

First Division (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Danubio	24	18	4	2	53	7	24
Peñarol	24	13	5	6	51	30	31
Defensor	24	12	7	5	33	17	31
Huracan Bueco	24	11	6	7	25	25	28
Liverpool	24	10	5	9	20	20	25
Wanderers	24	6	12	6	25	26	24
Nacional	24	8	6	10	26	32	22
Central Español	24	7	7	9	20	26	21
Cerro	24	9	3	12	21	29	21
River Plate	24	5	10	9	26	27	20
Bella Vista	24	5	8	11	20	33	18
Miramar Misiones	24	4	10	10	24	38	18

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	19	13	6	0	46	20	32
Barcelona	19	13	4	2	42	14	30
Atletico Madrid	19	9	4	6	34	23	22
Gijon	19	8	6	5	22	17	22
Valencia	19	8	6	5	17	14	22
Valladolid	19	9	3	7	19	14	21
Osasuna	19	7	7	5	25	22	21
Celta Vigo	19	8	5	5	17	21	21
Sevilla	19	7	6	6	24	21	20
Bilbao	19	7	6	6	22	21	20
Oviedo	19	7	5	7	22	22	19
Zaragoza	19	6	7	6	22	24	19
Logrones	19	5	9	5	13	16	19
Real Sociedad	19	6	5	7	19	23	17
Malaga	19	4	7	8	19	23	15
Cadiz	19	4	6	9	19	23	14
Murcia	19	5	3	11	17	30	13
Betis	19	2	8	9	18	29	12
Espanol	19	2	7	10	17	30	11
Elche	19	2	4	13	12	33	8

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	21	13	5	3	46	22	44
Norwich	22	11	8	3	33	24	41
Coventry	22	10	6	6	31	22	36
Liverpool	22	9	8	5	28	18	35
Notts Forest	22	8	10	4	31	24	34
Manchester Utd	22	8	9	5	27	19	33
Millwall	21	9	6	6	32	27	33
Derby	21	9	5	7	23	16	32
Everton	21	8	6	7	26	23	30
Middlesbrough	22	8	5	9	29	34	29
Wimbledon	21	8	4	9	25	29	28
Tottenham	22	6	8	8	33	34	26
Luton	22	6	8	8	24	26	26
Aston Villa	22	6	8	8	31	36	26
Southampton	22	6	8	8	34	42	26
QPR	22	6	6	10	23	22	24
Charlton	22	5	8	9	24	32	23
Sheffield Wed	21	5	8	8	18	29	23
West Ham	22	4	5	13	19	39	17
Newcastle	22	4	5	13	17	40	17

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CFCA Sredets	15	11	4	0	55	14	26
Vitosha	15	8	4	3	30	19	20
Etar	15	7	5	3	29	16	19
Trakia	15	8	3	4	31	19	19
Tcherno More	15	7	4	4	22	20	18
Beroe	15	7	4	4	23	23	18
Sliven	15	6	3	6	21	25	15
Dounav Russe	15	6	2	7	13	17	14
Slavia	15	4	5	6	14	16	13
Lok Plovdiv	15	5	3	7	15	33	13
Pirin	15	5	2	8	17	17	12
Lok Sofia	15	5	2	8	17	22	12
Mineur	15	4	3	8	15	24	11
Vratza	15	2	7	6	13	28	11
Lokomotiv GO	15	4	2	9	10	23	10
Spartak Varna	15	2	5	8	18	27	9

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vojvodina	17	9	4	0	23	16	22
Din Zagreb	17	10	1	3	27	14	21
Hajduk	17	8	5	1	23	11	21
Rad	17	7	6	1	23	13	20
Vardar	17	7	2	3	25	24	16
Radnicki	17	7	1	4	23	16	15
Velez	17	7	1	2	22	19	15
Osijek	17	5	5	0	19	26	15
Spartak	17	5	4	0	14	20	14
Et Belgr	17	6	1	4	21	16	13
Buducnost	17	5	3	2	16	25	13
Partizan	17	5	2	4	24	21	12
Rijeka	17	6	0	5	21	19	12
Sloboda	17	5	2	5	17	21	12
Napredak	17	6	0	3	21	28	12
Sarajevo	17	4	3	2	20	27	11
Zeljeznicar	17	4	0	2	16	30	8
Celik	17	4	3	2	15	24	5

● Celik penalised 6pts.

COLOMBIA

Professional League final round (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Gc	Bp	Pts
Millonarios	14	10	3	1	32	10	1.5	24.5
Nacional	14	10	3	1	23	5	1.5	24.5
America	14	7	4	3	31	16	0.75	18.75
Indep. Santa Fe	14	7	3	4	23	12	0.75	17.75
Atletico Junior Barranquilla	14	4	5	5	15	15	1.25	14.25
Pereira	14	2	3	9	9	32	—	7.0
Quindio	14	1	4	9	8	33	—	6.0
Cucuta	14	1	1	12	7	24	1.0	4.0

(Bp — bonus points.)

ARGENTINA

National A Division

	P	W	WP	LP	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Racing Avellane da (x)	18	10	3	3	2	28	17	39
Independiente	19	9	3	4	3	32	19	37
Deportivo Español	19	8	4	5	2	21	11	37
Boca Juniors (x)	18	9	4	1	4	25	18	36
Argentinos Juniors	19	7	5	4	3	31	20	35
River Plate	19	8	1	4	6	36	26	30
Gimnasia y Esg. La Plata	19	5	6	3	5	14	15	30
San Lorenzo	19	6	5	1	7	32	26	29
Estudiantes La Plata	19	6	3	5	5	20	18	29
Ferro Carril Oeste	19	5	4	4	6	18	19	27
Platense	19	5	5	2	7	17	20	27
San Martin Tucuman	19	6	1	6	6	23	24	26
Newell's Old Boys (1)	19	4	4	5	6	15	19	25
Talleres Córdoba	19	5	3	4	7	20	25	25
Velez Sarsfield	19	4	6	1	8	22	30	25
Rosario Central (1)	19	4	4	4	7	25	28	24
Dep. Mandiyú Corrientes	19	3	4	6	6	17	23	23
Racing Córdoba	19	5	3	1	10	16	26	22
Dep. Armenio	19	3	4	3	9	15	30	20
Instituto Córdoba	19	4	—	6	9	18	31	18

(x) Match suspended after 45 minutes — score 0-0.
(1) Lose one point at end of championship.

Bottom relegation averages (on points obtained over last three seasons — bottom two go down): Talleres Córdoba 0.86; Platense 0.86; Dep. Mandiyú 0.84; Racing Córdoba 0.82; Deportivo Armenio 0.82.

BRAZIL

BRAZIL: National Championship 2nd stage final standings — top two of each group qualify for final round together with top two of each first round group.)

Group A: 1) Sport 21 points; 2) Flamengo 20; 3) Sao Paulo, Portuguesa & Internacional Porto Alegre 19; 6) Atletico Mineiro 17; 7) Palmeiras & Goias 16; 9) Atletico Paranense 15; 10) Bangu 13; 11) Vitoria 12; 12) Fluminense 11.

Group B: 1) Vasco da Gama 27; 2) Cruzeiro 23; 3) Corinthians 22; 4) Bahia 21; 5) Coritiba 20; 6) Botafogo 19; 7) Santos 17; 8) Santa Cruz & Gremio 12; 10) Guarani 9; 11) Criciuma 8; 12) America Rio 7.

CHILE

First Division

1) Cobreloa 34 points; 2) Cobresal 32; 3) Deportes Iquigue 30; 4) Fernández Via 29; 5) Huachipato, Deportes Concepción, Everton 28; 8) Universidad Catolica, Colo Colo, Deportes La Serena 27; 11) Naval 24; 12) Universidad de Chile, Deportes Valdivia 21; 14) O'Higgins 20; 15) Union Española 19; 16) Palestino 15. (After 26 games.)

PERU

De-centralized championship

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Sporting Cristal	19	10	6	3	27	13	26
Alianza Atletico Sullana	20	11	3	6	27	19	25
Universitario	19	9	6	4	40	16	24
Union Huaral	20	10	4	6	32	23	24
Dep. Junin	20	8	4	8	25	21	20
Octavio Espinoza	20	8	4	8	24	26	20
Univ. Tec. Cajamarca	20	7	6	7	21	24	20
Melgar	20	7	5	8	32	33	19
Municipal	20	5	7	8	26	31	17
San Agustin	20	4	8	8	17	29	16
Cienciano	20	5	6	9	23	35	16
Mina San Vicente	20	2	7	11	12	36	11

BOLIVIA

Professional League final round

Group A	P	W	D	L	Pts
Blooming	3	2	—	1	4
Oriente Petrolero	2	1	1	—	3
Destroyers	2	1	—	1	2
Jorge Wilsterman	3	—	1	2	1
Group B					
The Strongest	2	2	—	—	4
Bolivar	2	1	—	1	2
Litoral	2	—	—	2	—

(eventual group winners clash in finals.)

VENEZUELA

Professional League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Caracas FC	11	6	4	1	16
Perpeganga Margarita	11	6	4	1	16
Zamora	11	5	5	1	15
Maritimo	11	6	3	2	15
Mineros	11	4	6	1	14
Lara	11	5	3	3	13
Italia	11	5	2	4	12
Tachira	11	4	3	4	11
Minerven	11	3	5	3	11
Univ. de los Andes	11	4	3	4	11
Galicia	11	3	5	3	11
Portuguesa	11	4	2	5	10
Estudiantes	11	2	5	4	9
Anzoategui	11	3	1	7	7
Peninsulares	11	—	3	8	3
Arroceros	11	—	2	9	2

MEXICO

First Division

Group 1	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
America	10	4	4	2	9	7	12
Irapuato	10	3	3	4	13	17	9
Cruz Azul	10	3	2	5	13	17	8
Toluca	10	3	1	6	23	27	7
Monterrey	10	2	3	5	9	17	7
Group 2							
Atlante	10	7	2	1	17	9	16
Puebla	10	5	4	1	15	6	14
Santos	10	4	3	3	10	13	11
Univ de Guadalajara	10	3	3	4	12	16	9
Univ. Nuevo Leon	10	3	1	6	12	20	7
Group 3							
Tampico-Madero	10	5	2	3	20	11	12
Guadalajara	10	5	1	4	16	14	11
Morelia	10	2	5	3	15	19	9
Necaxa	10	3	3	4	14	15	9
Potosino	10	—	4	6	7	13	4
Grroup 4							
Univ. Aut. de Mexico	10	6	3	1	17	6	15
Univ. Aut. Guadalajara	10	6	2	2	13	6	14
Atlas	10	4	1	5	22	18	9
Univ. de Tamaulipas	10	4	1	5	12	12	9
C. Juarez	10	1	7	2	6	7	9

COSTA RICA: First Division

1) Herediano 22 points; 2) Saprissa, Puntarenas 20; 4) Alajuelense, Cartajines 18; 6) Limon 17; 7) Uruguay 15; 8) Guanacaste 14; 9) San Ramon, San Carlos 12.

PARAGUAY: First Division final round (one game to go)

1) Olimpia 14 points; 2) Sol de America 10; 3) Cerro Porteño 7.5; 4) Sport Colombia, River Plate 7; 6) Libertad 6.5; 7) Sportivo Luqueño 4.5; 8) Colegiales 4. (Bonus points included — Olimpia and Sol de America already assured of first and second place.)

WORLD CUP DATES

EUROPE

GROUP 1

19.10.88	Greece v Denmark	1-1
19.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	1-3
2.11.88	Rumania v Greece	3-0
2.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-1
26. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	
26. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	
17. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	
17. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	
11.10.89	Bulgariav Greece	
11.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	
15.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	
15.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Denmark	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Greece	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

GROUP 2

19.10.88	England v Sweden	0-0
19.10.88	Poland v Albania	1-0
5.11.88	Albania v Sweden	1-2
8. 3.89	Albania v England	
26. 4.89	England v Albania	
7. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	
3. 6.89	England v Poland	
6. 9.89	Sweden v England	
8.10.89	Sweden v Albania	
11.10.89	Poland v England	
25.10.89	Poland v Sweden	
15.11.89	Albania v Poland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Poland	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
England	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Albania	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

GROUP 3

31. 8.88	Iceland v Soviet Union	1-1
12.10.88	Turkey v Iceland	1-1
19.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-0
19.10.88	East Germany v Iceland	2-0
2.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-2
30.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-1
12. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	
26. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	
10. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	
17. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	
31. 5.89	Soviet Union v Iceland	
14. 6.89	Iceland v Austria	
23. 8.89	Austria v Iceland	
6. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	
6. 9.89	Iceland v East Germany	
20. 9.89	Iceland v Turkey	
25.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	
25.10.89	Turkey v Austria	
8.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	
15.11.89	Austria v East Germany	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Turkey	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
East Germany	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Iceland	3	0	2	1	2	2	2
Austria	2	1	0	1	3	4	2

GROUP 4

31. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-4
14. 9.88	Holland v Wales	1-0
19.10.88	Wales v Finland	2-2
19.10.88	West Germany v Holland	0-0
26. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	
31. 5.89	Wales v West Germany	
31. 5.89	Finland v Holland	
6. 9.89	Finland v Wales	
4.10.89	West Germany v Finland	
11.10.89	Wales v Holland	
15.11.89	West Germany v Wales	
15.11.89	Holland v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
Holland	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Wales	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Finland	2	0	1	1	2	6	0

GROUP 5

14. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-2
28. 9.88	France v Norway	1-0
19.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	1-1
22.10.88	Cyprus v France	1-1
2.11.88	Cyprus v Norway	0-3
19.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	3-2
11.12.88	Yugoslavia v Cyprus	4-0
8. 2.89	Cyprus v Scotland	
8. 3.89	Scotland v France	
22. 4.89	Scotland v Cyprus	
29. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	
16. 5.89	Norway v Cyprus	
14. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	
5. 9.89	Norway v France	
6. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	
11.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	
11.10.89	France v Scotland	
28.10.89	Cyprus v Yugoslavia	
15.11.89	Scotland v Norway	
18.11.89	France v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	3	2	1	0	8	3	5
Scotland	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
France	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Norway	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Cyprus	3	0	1	2	1	8	1

GROUP 6

21. 5.88	Northern Ireland v Malta	3-0
14. 9.88	Northern Ireland v Rep. Ireland	0-0
19.10.88	Hungary v Northern Ireland	1-0
16.11.88	Spain v Rep. Ireland	2-0
11.12.88	Malta v Hungary	2-2
21.12.88	Spain v Northern Ireland	4-0
22. 1.89	Malta v Spain	0-2
8. 2.89	Northern Ireland v Spain	
8. 3.89	Hungary v Rep. Ireland	
22. 3.89	Spain v Malta	
12. 4.89	Hungary v Malta	
26. 4.89	Malta v Northern Ireland	
26. 4.89	Rep. Ireland v Spain	
28. 5.89	Rep. Ireland v Malta	
4. 6.89	Rep. Ireland v Hungary	
6. 9.89	Northern Ireland v Hungary	
11.10.89	Hungary v Spain	
11.10.89	Rep. Ireland v Northern Ireland	
15.11.89	Spain v Hungary	
15.11.89	Malta v Rep. Ireland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	8	0	6
Hungary	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Northern Ireland	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Rep. Ireland	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Malta	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

GROUP 7

1. 9.88	Luxembourg v Switzerland	1-4
19.10.88	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	0-2
19.10.88	Belgium v Switzerland	1-0
16.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-0
16.11.88	Portugal v Luxembourg	1-0
15. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	
29. 4.89	Portugal v Switzerland	
30. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	
10. 5.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	
7. 6.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	
7. 6.89	Switzerland v Czechoslovakia	
6. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	
20. 9.89	Switzerland v Portugal	
6.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	
11.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	
11.10.89	Switzerland v Belgium	
25.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Switzerland	
25.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	
15.11.89	Portugal v Czechoslovakia	
15.11.89	Switzerland v Luxembourg	

Winners and runners-up from groups 3, 5, 6 and 7 qualify for the finals along with the winners of groups 1, 2 and 4 plus the two runners-up from groups 1, 2, and 4 with the best comparative records.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Belgium	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Portugal	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

AFRICA

ROUND 1

7. 8.88	Angola v Sudan	0-0
11.11.88	Sudan v Angola	1-2
	Angola 2-1 on agg	
	Zimbabwe w/o v Lesotho	
	Zambia w/o v Rwanda (withdrew)	
16. 7.88	Uganda v Malawi	1-0
30. 7.88	Malawi v Uganda	3-1
	Malawi 3-2 on agg	
3. 6.89	Libya v Burkino Faso	3-0
3. 7.89	Burkino Faso v Libya	2-0
	Libya 3-2 on agg	
7. 8.88	Ghana v Liberia	0-0
21. 8.88	Liberia v Ghana	2-0
	Liberia 2-0 on agg	
5. 8.88	Tunisia v Guinea	5-0
21. 8.88	Guinea v Tunisia	3-0
	Tunisia 5-3 on agg	
	Gabon w/o v Togo	

ROUND 2

Group A

6. 1.89	Algeria v Zimbabwe	3-0
8. 1.89	Ivory Coast v Libya	1-0
20. 1.89	Libya v Algeria	P
22. 1.89	Zimbabwe v Ivory Coast	0-0
11. 6.89	Ivory Coast v Algeria	
11. 6.89	Zimbabwe v Libya	
23. 6.89	Libya v Ivory Coast	
25. 6.89	Zimbabwe v Algeria	
11. 8.89	Algeria v Libya	
13. 8.89	Ivory Coast v Zimbabwe	
25. 8.89	Algeria v Ivory Coast	
25. 8.89	Libya v Zimbabwe	

Group B

6. 1.89	Egypt v Liberia	2-0
7. 1.89	Kenya v Malawi	1-1
21. 1.89	Malawi v Egypt	1-1
22. 1.89	Liberia v Kenya	0-0
10. 6.89	Kenya v Egypt	
11. 6.89	Liberia v Malawi	
24. 6.89	Malawi v Kenya	
25. 6.89	Liberia v Egypt	
11. 8.89	Egypt v Malawi	
12. 8.89	Kenya v Liberia	
25. 8.89	Egypt v Kenya	
26. 8.89	Malawi v Liberia	

Group C

7. 1.89	Nigeria v Gabon	1-0
8. 1.89	Cameroon v Angola	1-1
22. 1.89	Gabon v Cameroon	1-3
22. 1.89	Angola v Nigeria	2-2
10. 6.89	Nigeria v Cameroon	
10. 6.89	Angola v Gabon	
25. 6.89	Gabon v Nigeria	
12. 8.89	Nigeria v Angola	
13. 8.89	Cameroon v Gabon	
27. 8.89	Cameroon v Nigeria	
27. 8.89	Gabon v Angola	

Group D

8. 1.89	Morocco v Zambia	1-0
8. 1.89	Zaire v Tunisia	3-1
22. 1.89	Tunisia v Morocco	2-1
22. 1.89	Zambia v Zaire	4-2
11. 6.89	Zaire v Morocco	
11. 6.89	Zambia v Tunisia	
25. 6.89	Zambia v Morocco	
25. 6.89	Tunisia v Zaire	
13. 8.89	Morocco v Tunisia	
13. 8.89	Zaire v Tunisia	
25. 8.89	Tunisia v Zambia	
27. 8.89	Morocco v Zaire	

ROUND 3

Winners Gp 1 v Winners Gp 2; Winners Gp 3 v Winners Gp 4. Aggregate winning teams qualify for the finals.

ASIA

WEST ASIA

Group 1: Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar.

6. 1.89	Qatar v Jordan	1-0
6. 1.89	Oman v Iraq	1-1

13. 1.89 Oman v Qatar 0-0
13. 1.89 Jordan v Iraq 0-1
20. 1.89 Jordan v Oman 2-0
20. 1.89 Qatar v Iraq 1-0
27. 1.89 Jordan v Qatar
27. 1.89 Iraq v Oman
3. 2.89 Qatar v Oman
3. 2.89 Iraq v Jordan
10. 2.89 Oman v Jordan
10. 2.89 Iraq v Qatar

Group 2 (Bahrain withdrew)
10. 3.89 Yeman AR v Syria
15. 3.89 Saudi Arabia v Syria
20. 3.89 Yemen AR v Saudi Arabia
25. 3.89 Syria v Yemen AR
30. 3.89 Syria v Saudi Arabia
5. 4.89 Saudi Arabia v Yemen AR

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Pakistan (RP 'South' Yemen withdrew).
6. 1.89 Pakistan v Kuwait 0-1
13. 1.89 Kuwait v UAE 3-2
20. 1.89 UAE v Pakistan 5-0
27. 1.89 Kuwait v Pakistan
3. 2.89 UAE v Kuwait
10. 2.89 Pakistan v UAE

EAST ASIA
Group 4: S.Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal (India withdrew so Nepal were switched from Group 5 to square the numbers).

Group 5
20. 2.89 Thailand v Bangladesh
23. 2.89 Thailand v Iran
26. 2.89 Bangladesh v Iran
28. 2.89 Thailand v China
4. 3.89 Bangladesh v China
5. 3.89 Iran v Thailand
8. 3.89 Bangladesh v Thailand
10. 3.89 Iran v Bangladesh
28. 5.89 China v Bangladesh
11. 6.89 China v Iran
21. 6.89 Iran v China
28. 6.89 China v Thailand

Group 6
21. 5.89 Indonesia v N.Korea
21. 5.89 Hong Kong v Japan
27. 5.89 Hong Kong v N.Korea
28. 5.89 Indonesia v Japan
4. 6.89 Hong Kong v Indonesia
4. 6.89 Japan v N.Korea
11. 6.89 N.Korea v Hong Kong
11. 6.89 Japan v Indonesia
18. 6.89 N.Korea v Indonesia
18. 6.89 Japan v Hong Kong
25. 6.89 Indonesia v Hong Kong
25. 6.89 N.Korea v Japan
Winners of all groups play off in a league system with top two teams qualifying for the finals.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Round 1
19. 6.88 Antigua v Neth. Antilles 0-1
29. 7.88 Neth. Antilles v Antigua 3-1
Neth. Antilles 4-1 on agg
12. 5.88 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 1-0
29. 5.88 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 1-2
Jamaica 3-1 on agg
17. 4.88 Guyana v Trinidad/Tobago 0-4
8. 5.88 Trinidad/Tobago v Guyana 1-0
Trinidad/Tobago 5-0 on agg
17. 7.88 Costa Rica v Panama 1-1
31. 7.88 Panama v Costa Rica 0-2
Costa Rica 3-1 on agg
30. 4.88 Cuba v Guatemala 0-1
15. 5.88 Guatemala v Cuba 1-1
Guatemala 2-1 on agg

Round Two
1.10.88 Neth. Antilles v El Salvador 0-1
16.10.88 El Salvador v Neth. Antilles 5-0
El Salvador 6-0 on agg
30.10.88 Trinidad/Tobago v Honduras 0-0
13.11.88 Honduras v Trinidad/Tobago 1-1
Trinidad/Tobago on away goal: 1-1 agg
24. 7.88 Jamaica v United States 0-0
31. 7.88 United States v Jamaica 5-1
United States 5-1 on agg

9.10.88 Guatemala v Canada 1-0
15.10.88 Canada v Guatemala 3-2
Guatemala on away goals: 3-3 agg
Costa Rica w/o v Mexico

Round Three
19. 3.89 Guatemala v Costa Rica
2. 4.89 Costa Rica v Guatemala
16. 4.89 Costa Rica v United States
30. 4.89 United States v Costa Rica
13. 5.89 United States v Trin/Tobago
28. 5.89 Trin/Tobago v Costa Rica
10. 6.89 United States v Guatemala
11. 6.89 Costa Rica v Trin/Tobago
25. 6.89 El Salvador v Costa Rica
9. 7.89 El Salvador v United States
16. 7.89 Costa Rica v El Salvador
30. 7.89 Trin/Tobago v El Salvador
13. 8.89 El Salvador v Trin/Tobago
20. 8.89 Guatemala v Trin/Tobago
3. 9.89 Trin/Tobago v Guatemala
8.10.89 Guatemala v United States
5.11.89 United States v El Salvador
19.11.89 Trin/Tobago v United States
19.11.89 Guatemala v El Salvador
26.11.89 El Salvador v Guatemala
Note: Top two qualify for finals.

OCEANIA

Round 1
11.12.88 Taiwan v New Zealand 0-4
18.12.88 New Zealand v Taiwan 4-1
New Zealand 8-1 on agg
26.11.88 Fiji v Australia 1-0
3.12.88 Australia v Fiji 5-2
Australia 5-3 on agg

Round 2
5. 3.89 Israel v New Zealand
12. 3.89 Australia v New Zealand
19. 3.89 Israel v Australia
2. 4.89 New Zealand v Australia
9. 4.89 New Zealand v Israel
16. 4.89 Australia v Israel
Winning team plays winners of S. America Gp 2 for place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1
20. 8.89 Bolivia v Peru
27. 8.89 Peru v Uruguay
3. 9.89 Bolivia v Uruguay
10. 9.89 Peru v Bolivia
17. 9.89 Uruguay v Bolivia
24. 9.89 Uruguay v Peru

Group 2
20. 8.89 Colombia v Ecuador
27. 8.89 Paraguay v Colombia
3. 9.89 Ecuador v Colombia
10. 9.89 Paraguay v Ecuador
24. 9.89 Colombia v Paraguay
1.10.89 Ecuador v Paraguay

Group 3
30. 7.89 Venezuela v Brazil
6. 8.89 Venezuela v Chile
13. 8.89 Chile v Brazil
20. 8.89 Brazil v Venezuela
27. 8.89 Chile v Venezuela
3. 9.89 Brazil v Chile

Winners of Groups 1 and 3 qualify for the finals. Winners of Gp 2 play off against Oceania section winners for place in the finals.

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Group 1
(Greece, Denmark,, Bulgaria, Rumania)
18.10.88 Greece v Denmark 2-2
18.10.88 Bulgaria v Rumania 2-1
1.11.88 Denmark v Bulgaria 1-3
1.11.88 Rumania v Greece 2-0
25. 4.89 Bulgaria v Denmark
25. 4.89 Greece v Rumania
16. 5.89 Denmark v Greece
16. 5.89 Rumania v Bulgaria
10.10.89 Denmark v Rumania
10.10.89 Bulgaria v Greece
14.11.89 Rumania v Denmark
14.11.89 Greece v Bulgaria

Group 2
18.10.88 England v Sweden 1-1
18.10.88 Poland v Albania 0-0
4.11.88 Albania v Sweden 0-2
7. 3.89 Albania v England
25. 4.89 England v Albania
6. 5.89 Sweden v Poland
2. 6.89 England v Poland
5. 9.89 Sweden v England
7.10.89 Sweden v Albania
10.10.89 Poland v England
24.10.89 Poland v Sweden
14.11.89 Poland v Sweden

Group 3
18.10.88 Soviet Union v Austria 2-2
1.11.88 Austria v Turkey 3-0
29.11.88 Turkey v East Germany 3-2
11. 4.89 East Germany v Turkey
25. 4.89 Soviet Union v East Germany
9. 5.89 Turkey v Soviet Union
16. 5.89 East Germany v Austria
5. 9.89 Austria v Soviet Union
6.10/
7.10.89 East Germany v Soviet Union
24.10.89 Turkey v Austria
7.11.89 Soviet Union v Turkey
14.11.89 Austria v East Germany

Group 4
30. 8.88 Finland v West Germany 0-3
13. 9.88 Iceland v Holland 1-1
28. 9.88 Finland v Iceland 2-1
18.10.88 West Germany v Holland 2-0
25. 4.89 Holland v West Germany
30. 5.89 Finland v Holland
30. 5.89 Iceland v West Germany
5. 9.89 Iceland v Finland
3.10.89 West Germany v Finland
10.10.89 Holland v Iceland
25.10.89 West Germany v Iceland
14.11.89 Holland v Finland

Group 5
13. 9.88 Norway v Scotland 1-1
27. 9.88 France v Norway 2-0
18.10.88 Scotland v Yugoslavia 0-2
18.11.88 Yugoslavia v France 2-2
7. 3.89 Scotland v France
24. 4.89 France v Yugoslavia
13. 6.89 Norway v Yugoslavia
5. 9.89 Norway v France
5. 9.89 Yugoslavia v Scotland
10.10.89 Yugoslavia v Norway
10.10.89 France v Scotland
14.11.89 Scotland v Norway

Group 6
11.12.88 Cyprus v Hungary 0-0
22. 3.89 Cyprus v Spain
12. 4.89 Hungary v Cyprus
31. 5.89 Spain v Cyprus
10.10.89 Hungary v Spain
14.11.89 Spain v Hungary

Group 7
15.11.88 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 0-3
14. 2.89 Portugal v Belgium
5. 4.89 Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg
25. 4.89 Portugal v Luxembourg
29. 4.89 Belgium v Czechoslovakia
26. 5.89 Luxembourg v Belgium
5. 9.89 Belgium v Portugal
5.10.89 Czechoslovakia v Portugal
9.10.89 Luxembourg v Portugal
24.10.89 Belgium v Luxembourg
14.11.89 Portugal v Luxembourg
29.11.89 Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia

Group 8
26. 4.89 Switzerland v Italy
6. 6.89 San Marino v Switzerland
4.10.89 San Marino v Italy
25.10.89 Italy v Switzerland
14.11.89 Switzerland v San Marino
29.11.89 Italy v San Marino

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NIGERIAN BOY, 24, would like pen pals from around the world. Hobbies include football, tennis, reading, music and travelling. Mr S. A. Aleshe, 13 Elarodo St Ikate, Surirleve, Lagos, Nigeria.

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MOROCCON BOY, 22, would like to have pen pals from around the world. Write to: P Ezzahidi Abdelhadi, 33 Route d' elyoussouphice, Jemaa — Shaim, Regim, Safi, Morocco.

BELGIAN BOY, 20, would like pen pals who support Nottingham Forest. Write to: Legentil Luc, Rue Lulay 59, 4460 Glons, Province de Liege, Belgium.

PARIS ST GERMAIN FAN, 23, would like to correspond with fans of teams everywhere in the world to exchange souvenirs. Mr Devassine Chorly, 76 Rue Danton, 91210 Draveil, France.

MOROCCON BOY would like pen pals from Great Britain. Write to: M. Chalidy Hassan, Derb El Fouklata, Rue 22 No 62, Casablanca 06, Morocco.

CHINESE — CANADIAN MALE, 21, wishes to correspond with female soccer fans from Europe, Canada or USA. Write to: Mike Chong, 608 Mclevin Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, M1B 3Y2, Canada.

TANZANIAN BOY, 20, would like to have pen pals from, UK, USA, Canada, Sweden, Zimbabwe, Japan and Switzerland. Correspondants can be male or female and between the ages of 18-26. My hobbies include sports, music and movies. Louis Pearson, Nkembo, Sangu High School, PO Box 359, Mbeya, Tanzania.

FOOTBALL FAN, 27, would like pen pals from Poland, Portugal, Turkey, Rumania, Denmark, East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Write to: Arkis Pavlidis, Elefterias 37, GR 55337, Thessaloniki, Greece.

RED STAR BELGRADE FAN would like pen pals from all over Europe. Write in Yugoslav or English to: Sasha Vasic, 3 Reserve Court, Glenray 3046, Victoria, Australia.

EVERTON FAN would like to correspond with Espanol fans who watch their team regularly, to exchange programmes etc. Write in English to: Karen Evans, 30 Clifton Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside, England, L41 2SQ.

GLASGOW RANGERS FAN seeks European pen pals to exchange sew on patches, metal badges and pennants. Write to: Brian Muir, 20 Motehill Road, Paisley, PA3 4ST, Scotland.

ENGLISHMAN SEEKS reliable South American, based person to send videos of Brazil's games. D. Woods, 161 North Hill Drive, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 7AE.

23 YEAR OLD BOY IS LOOKING FOR PEN PALS in Great Britain, East European countries, Holland and Switzerland. Eric Lumen, Goutstouwersstraat 52, 1660 Lot, Belgium.

LIVERPOOL FAN, 24, would like to correspond with pen pals in Germany, Spain and Holland to swap magazines and soccer information. Mark Germain, 54 Angelina Street, Butetown, Cardiff, CF1 5HZ.

NEWCASTLE FAN, 16, would like a fellow football fan who attends regular matches to write to him from anywhere in the world. Michael Phillips, 22 Lime Road, Ferryhill, Co Durham, D17 8DJ.

ENGLISH MALE, 21, would like to correspond with females from Scandinavia on music, sport and life in general. Write to: Darren Potter, 11 Herbert Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 1LZ, England.

ALGERIAN STUDENT, 20, would like pen pals from all over the world. Hobbies include football, music and reading. Write to: Aouf Nour Addinne, Baba Said Elgherb, Ghardoia H7,000, Algeria.

BELGIAN BOY, 21, wishes to get football match tickets (Used) especially for European cup ties and International games. Possibility of money exchange. Robert Luyckfasseel, Frans Timmermans, 45, 1600 Leeuw St Peirre, Belgium.

ALGERIAN GIRL, 19, wants to have pen pals from all over the world. Ziouche Ilham, 42 Rue L Ben M'Hidi, 16000, Algeria.

IPSWICH TOWN FAN, 21, would like to correspond with other Blue fans in England and all over the world. Grzegorz Cwizewicz, ul Morske Oko 7/77, 43 316 Bielsko Biata, Poland.

SPURS FAN would like to correspond with other Spurs fans who regularly go to games at White Hart Lane to help me in collecting programmes. Also would Green of London contact me. Clarence Tsui, 15D Tung Hoi Mansion, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong.

POLISH FAN, 18, wants pen pals from around the world for exchanging soccer souvenirs. Pistr Zdobych, Al Wojska Polskiego 56/20, 62-800 Kalisz, Poland.

JAPANESE GIRL, 21, would like pen pals from all over the world. Interests include football and music. Please write in English. Naomi Kuroda, 12, Niban cho, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 102, Japan.

BRITISH PEN PALS WANTED. I am a responsible boy of 20 who would be very grateful to hear from people of any age. Write to: Eric Kwadwo Sarbeng, PO Box 690, Sunyani B/A, Ghana, West Africa.

ALGERIAN BOY, 18, would like pen pals from around the world. Hobbies include volleyball and Football. Goumri Rachid, 14 Rue Des Freres Bellhai, Mohammadia, 29,400, Algeria.

FOR SALE

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES FOR SALE. Quality fixtures all at bargain prices. Send stamp. Collector, 56 Roxburgh Street, Walton, Liverpool, L4 3TB.

END TABLES OF POLSKA SINCE 1921 also II/III League 7 inclusive postage. Reinhard Kappel, Markplatz 7, 8663, Sparneck, West Germany.

PRIVATE SOCCER VIDEO COLLECTION. Hundreds of games with English commentary, including full length international matches post 1966 and many English club fixtures not screened in the UK for example Italy v Brazil (1970), Scotland v Holland (1978), Everton v Southampton (Div 1 1988), West Ham v Liverpool (Div 1 1988. Send SAE/IRC for details. Websters Publications, Box No 003, 4th Floor King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

NEW YEAR SALE OF 120 LEAGUE PROGRAMMES. Good condition. £20. Websters Publications-,Box No 007, 4th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

FOR SALE: Video cassettes VHS of International, National football, European cup games, European championship etc. Alan Verjans, Chemin de Sluse

76, 4460 Glons (Bassenge) Province de Liege, Belgium.

REAL PROGRAMME SALE. Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, England, Big match. Send 40p to: S. Hopkins, 16 Vicarage Close, Collingham, Newark, Notts, NG23 7PQ.

FOOTBALL BOOKS: Annuals, histories, foreign yearbooks, World Soccers etc, SAE for list. K. Moulden, 2 Fullbrook Crescent, Reading. (0734) 426846.

FOR SALE: VHS video cassettes of Italian, Spanish, South American soccer. Sam McCosh, Raceview, Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

FOOTBALL TRIVIA QUIZ LEAGUE. So you think you know about football. Join the postal league & compete for the league title. Write to: AWC, 37 Longmead Drive, Bushey Heath, Watford, Herts.

WANTED

WANTED: League results, England, Belgium, France, Spain, Holland, Portugal, Malta, West Germany, Scotland, Italy. Andrzej Sitko, Murowany Most, 16-508 Smolany, Poland.

WANTED: VHS soccer videos and World Soccers 1960-83 state required price. Please contact: Peter Speranza, 90 Lemont Avenue, Mt Waverley 3149, Australia.

WANTED: FA Cup final programmes, Derby County v Charlton Athletic 1945/46 & Charlton Athletic v Burnley 1946/47. Also, VHS video of Leeds United (1) Charlton Athletic (2) St Andrews, Birmingham, May 29th 1987. Gavin Power, World Soccer Magazine, 4th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

FOOTBALL FAN & STATISTICIAN seeks full league tables and results from all countries especially Asia & Africa. Steve Pont, Zellamzee, Tilthams Green, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3BT, England.

TEAM PHOTOS (Small) of English and Scottish clubs required, I will buy them or exchange for internationals souvenirs. Bernhard Neumann, Hauplatz 12, A 2442 Unterwaltersdor, Austria.

FC PORTO FAN will buy anthing to do with FC Porto please phone 01-981 0607 (4pm to 7pm) only, or write to this address. 27 Howcroft House, Benworth Street, Bow, London, E3 2AU.

EXCHANGES

SOCCER METAL BADGE COLLECTOR offers 1st edition South African soccer annual 1988, in exchange for any soccer metal badges worldwide. Limited stocks. Enquiries to: Les Prevost, PO Box 2533, Johannesburg 2000, Republic of South Africa.

BRITISH FAN travelling to South America in mid 1989 interested in exchanging English and Scottish football souvenirs, especially shirts, for local ones. Dave Tripp, 24 Bellevue Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 6NF, UK.

GENUINE UK AUTOGRAPHS (Collected on white bond paper) will swap for similar from any overseas country. Write to: G. Holmes, 37 Old Manor Road, Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 3QS, England.

ENGLISH FAN wishes to exchange historical and other information with fans from other European countries. Please write in English to: P. H. Whitehead, 7 Edmund Street, Ewood, Blackburn, Lancs, England.

WORLD SOCCER June 85-88, various Australian and British annuals. Exchange for statistical information or money. Andrew Robinson, PO Box 334, Red Hill 4059, Australia.

I AM VERY INTERESTED in exchange of metal badges of football clubs from all over the world. Kubasek Zdenek, Prubezna 1853, 260 01 Rakovnik, Czechoslovakia.

FRENCH COLLECTOR OF POSTCARDS of football stadiums seeks collectors worldwide for exchange. Write in English, French, German, Spanish or Italian to: Marc Boixader, 68 Bis, Rue du Repos 69007 Lyon, France.

SEND ME 5 LEAGUE PROGRAMMES of your club and I'll send you 10 different Danish league programmes. Torben Klarskov, Ligustervangen 10, 3450 Allerod, Denmark.

CANADIAN HOCKEY FAN would like someone to tape European hockey matches. Especially interested in this years World Championships in Sweden. Will pay cash or have many soccer/Hockey items to offer in trade. Dennis Payne, 724 McKellar Street, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, K9J 1R3. NTSC or PAL.

ENGLISHMAN, 25, who supports Everton would like to write to/exchange badges etc, with football fans in Europe. Especially with supporters of Dneprpetrovsk, Carl Zeiss Jena, Lokeren, AA Gent, Twente Enschede, FC Tirol, Hannover 96, Setubal, Milan, Lyngby or KV Mechelen. All letters answered. Write in English, Flemish/Nederlands, German or Russian. Jonathan M. Wood, 35 Balsdean Road, Woodingdean, Brighton, BN2 6PG, England.

EXCHANGES WANTED. I would like football programmes from all over the world in exchange for British football programmes. Carl Chambers, 35 Grove Avenue, York Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN5 9BA, England.

I WANT TO CORRESPOND WITH FANS FROM ENGLAND. I follow English football and like Liverpool, Chelsea, Manchester United. Zlatkovic Dejan, Slovenacka 13, 18300 Pirot, Yugoslavia.

I WANT TO CORRESPOND WITH ENGLISH FANS. I support Liverpool, Manchester United and Everton. Sasa Ciric, Save Kovaceivica 5, 18300, Pirot, Yugoslavia.

METAL BADGE COLLECTOR would like to exchange them with English collectors. Eng Vanjusha Totev, Venec No 14, ET, 1, AP 2, Gabrovo, 5300, Bulgaria.

FEYENOORD & HOLLAND FAN would like to swap souvenirs and photos with fans from all over the world. Tom Workala, 349 Turnberry Avenue, Ardler, Dundee, Scotland.

ICELANDIC FOOTBALL FAN WANTED. To record English soccer shown in Iceland (VHS PAL) in exchange for matches from all around the world. Write to: S. Anketell, 60 Manor Farm Road, Alperton, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 1BW, England.

A COLLECTOR OF METAL BADGES of football clubs seeks serious partners anywhere in the world. Badges in registered letters only. I can offer badges from various countries. Zonak Kincara, Marxova 624, 27801 Kralupy n/u W, Malnik, Czechoslovakia.

EXCHANGE GUERIN SPORTIVO MAGAZINES (Italian sports weekly) for Brazil items , money etc. D. Woods, 161 North Hill Drive, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 7AE, England.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL FAN would like to exchange souvenirs and newspapers. My hobbies include shirt collecting from Europe and America. Write to: Trajkovic Goram, 17 Oktobar, E2A/I/16 35000 Svetozarevo, Yugoslavia.

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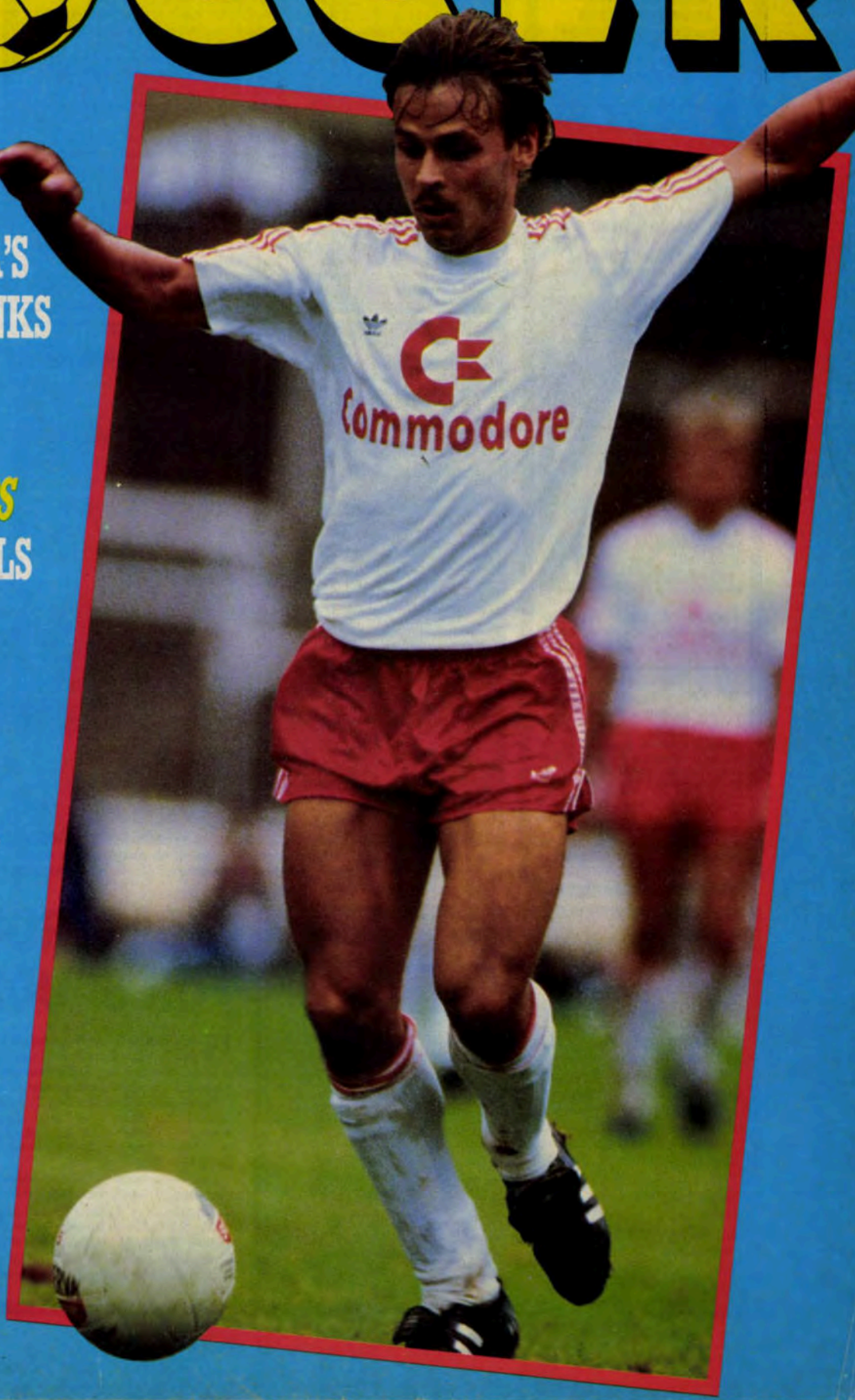

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